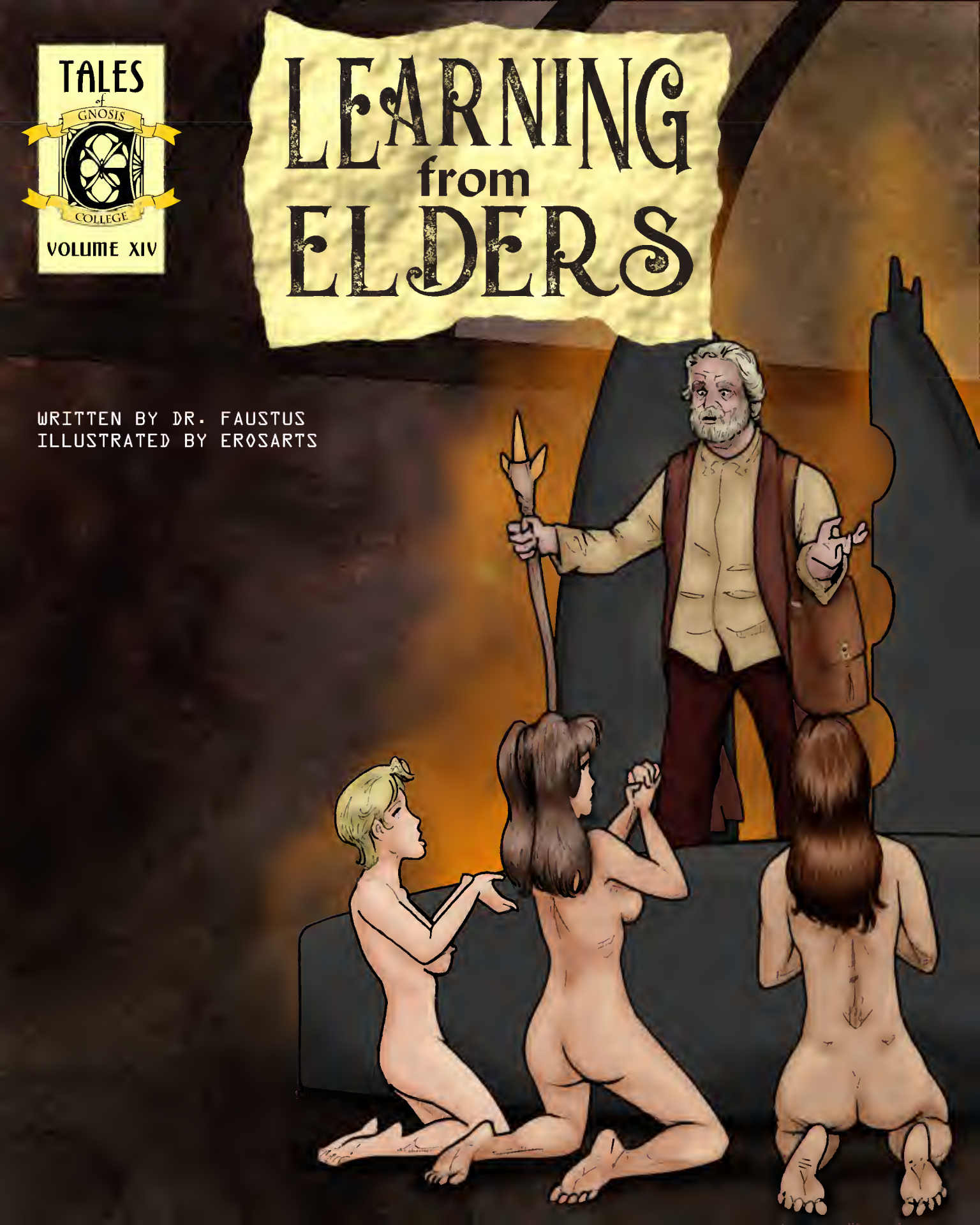
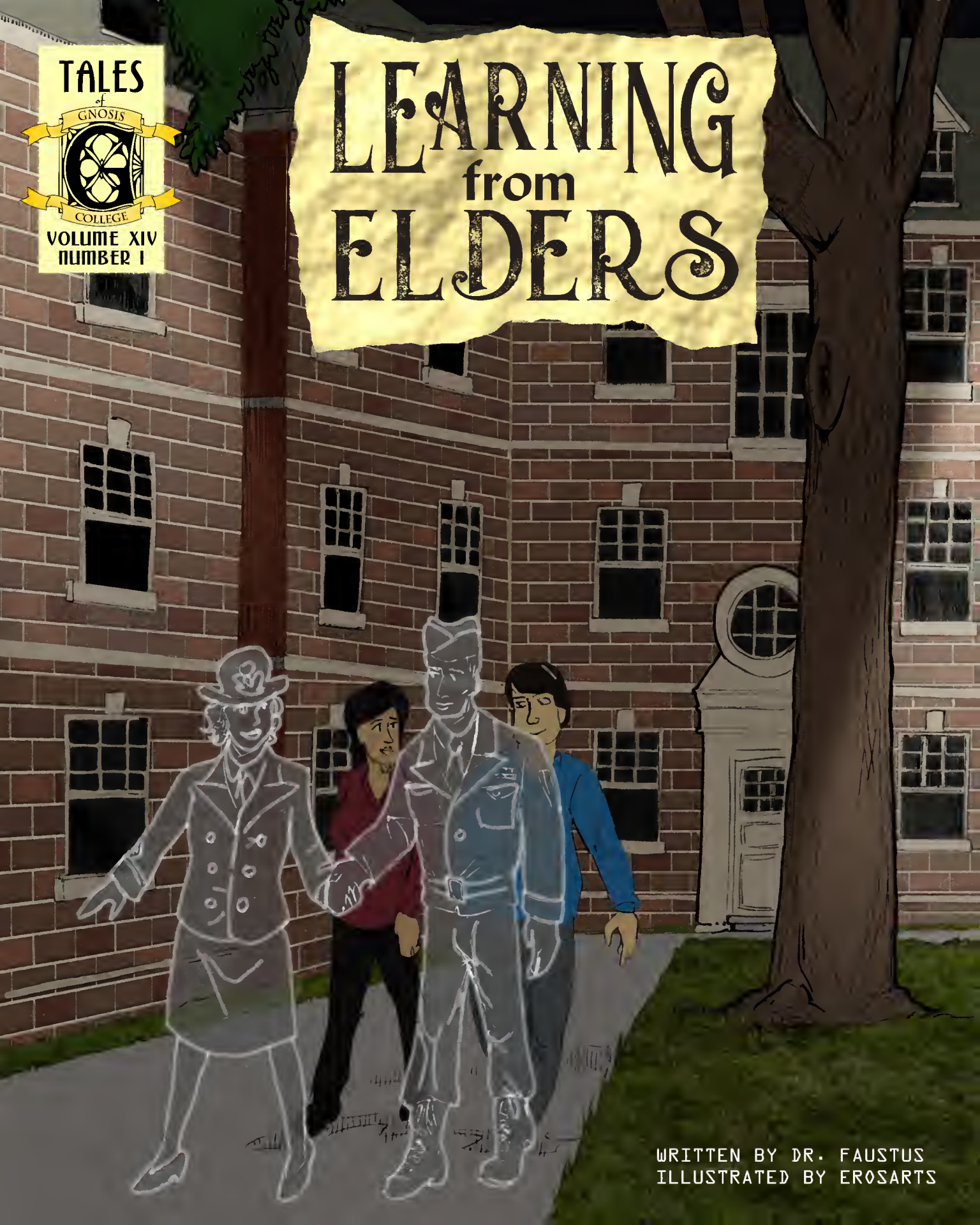
TALES of GNOSIS COLLEGE

VOLUME XIV

LEARNING from ELDERS

WRITTEN BY DR. FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY EROSARTS




TALES
of
GNOSIS
COLLEGE
VOLUME XIV
NUMBER 1
LEARNING
from
ELDERS
WRITTEN BY DR. FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY EROSARTS

GNOSIS COLLEGE FRESHMAN QUADRANGLE, 1943.

COMIN' DOWN.

OOF!

WH UMP!

ARE YOU HURT, MARY?

ONLY MY PRIDE.

LET'S GO BEFORE MATRON HEARS US.

I KNOW A ROADHOUSE JUST OUT OF TOWN WHERE WE CAN HAVE A GOOD TIME.

OH, YOU'RE THE BEST, JACK.

GNOSIS COLLEGE FRESHMAN QUADRANGLE, PRESENT YEAR. FIRST YEAR STUDENT MOVE-IN DAY.

RENT-IT

TOW

HURTZ MOVING

RENT-IT

"LEARNING FROM ELDERS"
CHAPTER 1

WRITTEN BY: IAGO FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY: EROSARTS

OKAY. ONE, TWO, THREE, LIFT...

HRRR...

HUUHGNF!

PERHAPS WE COULD FIND A WAY TO LIVE WITHOUT A MINI FRIDGE?

LET ME SEE IF SOMEONE CAN HELP.

HEY COULD SOMEBODY MAYBE GIVE US A HAND HERE?

WE CAN, MAYBE.

I'M YOUR UPSTAIRS NEIGHBOR RAZ AND THIS MY ROOMMATE STAN. AS IN STAN THE PHYSICS MAN. IF ANYONE CAN FIGURE OUT HOW TO MOVE THAT ANCIENT ARTIFACT, HE CAN.

LUCY. HI.

I'M CHIARA.

I HAVE SOME SLIDERS UPSTAIRS. THAT WOULD SEEM TO BE THE EASIEST WAY.

JUST ROCK IT BACK, AND YOU WOMEN SLIP THE SLIDERS UNDERNEATH THE BACK LEGS...

SCRRAPE!

HOORAY FOR PESSIMISM

NOW, THAT WASN'T SO BAD, WAS IT?

SPEAK FOR YOURSELF, EINSTEIN.

HEY, IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE LEFT A MESSAGE FOR US.

THEY ARE AND

SCRAPE, SCRAPE...

THEY ARE VANISHING US ONE BY ONE AND I AM FRIGHTENED. MARY K.

THAT'S... REALLY CREEPY.

I'M GLAD WE'RE PUTTING A REFRIGERATOR IN FRONT OF IT.

I THINK IF YOU CALL BUILDINGS & GROUNDS THEY'LL SEND SOMEONE OVER TO PAINT RIGHT OVER THAT.

I THINK I COULD REALLY USE A... CUP OF COFFEE? IS ANYONE UP?

AY FOR PESSIMISM

SO YOU'RE, LIKE, ASIAN?

MY DAD IS FROM TAIWAN, BUT MY MOTHER IS JEWISH, AND I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT OF MYSELF AS A MEMBER OF THE TRIBE.

THAT WASN'T MENTIONED IN THE FACEPLACE POST I FOUND ON YOU.

I'M ON SOCIAL MEDIA ALREADY? GREAT. SO WHAT HAVE I BEEN CANCELED FOR?

NOTHING YET, SILLY PERSON. BUT THERE'S A RUMOR GOING AROUND THAT YOU GOT A "5" ON SIX DIFFERENT AP LANGUAGE AND CULTURE EXAMS.

NOT QUITE TRUE. IT'S SEVEN IF YOU COUNT THE LATIN EXAM.

I'VE ALWAYS JUST HAD THIS KNACK FOR PICKING UP LANGAUGES.

GESÙ!

SO YOU'RE AS ITALIAN AS YOUR NAME?

TRUST-FUND BABY FROM AN OLD AND RICH FAMILY... THE INTERNAL LIFE OF WHICH RESEMBLES A BAD GIALLO MOVIE.

IT PROBABLY ISN'T AN EXAGGERATION TO SAY THAT IT WAS TO KEEP ME AWAY FROM MY CREEPY UNCLES THAT MY PARENTS SENT ME TO A PRIVATE BOARDING SCHOOL IN CONNECTICUT. IT TURNS OUT LUCY WENT TO A SIMILAR SETUP IN VIRGINIA.

STRANGE THAT YOU SHOULD COME TO GNOSIS. I MEAN, DON'T PLACES LIKE THAT PIPELINE INTO SCHOOLS LIKE WILLIAMS OR YALE?

AFTER THAT PLACE I WAS VERY TIRED OF ***PREPPY***. GNOSIS HAS A REPUTATION FOR, WELL, ***WEIRD***.

SPERO NON RIMARRETE DELUSA, SIGNORINA.

GRAZIE, CARO SIGNORE.

SO RAZ, WHERE IS YOUR GIANT ROOMMATE?

SAID HE HAD SOME "PHYSICS THING" HE HAD TO DO WITH SOME PHYSICS FRIENDS HE KNEW FROM BEFORE. AND YOUR STUNNING COMPANION LUCY?

HAD SOME "THEATER THING" SHE WANTED TO TRY OUT FOR. "THE SORT OF THING I COULD NEVER DO BACK IN PREP SCHOOL." YEAH, I'LL BET.

SAY RAZ...

"THEY ARE VANISHING US ONE BY ONE AND I AM FRIGHTENED." WHAT DO YOU THINK IT MEANS?

HMMMMMMMMMMMM

WOW, THE NEW 3D PRINTER MAKES IT LOOK REAL. REALLY REAL. EXCEPT THAT NOW I'M...26?

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR PROMOTION TO ADULTHOOD, MR. REE-JOO-SKI.

REJEWSKI. STANISŁAW REJEWSKI.*

WHATEVER, COLESLAWSKI. LET'S GET DRINKS. I KNOW A COOL PLACE.

*STAN-IH-SWAV REY-EV-SKI. I HOPE YOU'RE TAKING NOTES, BECAUSE THIS ***WILL*** BE ON THE TEST.

WOW.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS PAINTING?

WELL, SHE'S BEEN UP ABOVE THAT BAR FOR OVER A HUNDRED YEARS. NO ONE KNOWS WHO PAINTED HER, BUT THERE'S LONG BEEN A RUMOR THAT IT WAS MODELED FOR BY A GNOSIS COED NAMED MILLIE.

STORY WAS THAT NOT LONG AFTER POSING FOR THAT PORTRAIT, MILLIE UP AND DISAPPEARED. MAYBE POSING NAKED LIKE THAT WAS TOO MUCH OF A SCANDAL. NO ONE REALLY KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED TO HER.

SHE'S JUST SO... LIFELIKE.

A LOT OF PEOPLE SAY SHE WENT OUT WEST AND MADE HER LIVING AS A "GOOD-TIME GIRL," IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

LESS LIKE A PAINTING AND...

DUDE...

PRATAP, I THINK WE MAY HAVE BROUGHT OUR BOY TO THE WRONG KIND OF ADULT ESTABLISHMENT.

THE AIM OF "GENESIS" IS TO USE IMPROVISATIONAL ROLE PLAYING IN FRONT OF AN AUDIENCE FOLLOWED BY ***FRIENDLY*** POST-PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND CRITIQUE TO DEVELOP SKILLS AT ACTING.

WHAT I'M HANDING YOU ARE SET OF DRAMATIC PROMPTS DESCRIBING CHARACTERS AND SITUATIONS.

Prompts for IMPROV

YOUR OBJECTIVE AS ACTORS IS TO GET INTO THESE CHARACTERS AND PLAY OUT THE SITUATIONS.

HOW ABOUT "WITCHFINDER AND SHEPHERDESS?"

I THINK WE EVEN HAVE PROPS AND COSTUMES FOR THAT.

BUT DO YOU THINK YOU CAN PLAY IT WITH REAL ***COMMITMENT***?

OKAY, NOW. SCENES LIKE THESE CAN GET MORE THAN A LITTLE INTENSE, SO THERE ARE SOME RULES WE ALL HAVE TO FOLLOW.

FIRST OFF, NOBODY GETS SHAMED ABOUT WHAT THEY DO HERE. WHAT HAPPENS IN THIS PERFORMANCE SPACE STAYS HERE, UNDERSTAND?

WE GOT THAT.

NOD

NOD

AND SECOND, IT THINGS GET TOO MUCH FOR ANYONE, THERE'S A SAFEWORD, JUST LIKE THERE IS IN OTHER SCENES. ANYONE IN THE SPACE CAN USE IT AT ANY TIME FOR ANY REASON OR NO REASON AT ALL, AND NO ONE GETS QUESTIONED AFTERWARD FOR USING IT.

WHAT'S THE WORD?

OATMEAL.

OATMEAL?

OATMEAL.

AND... BEGIN!

CLACK!

DOTH IT PLEASE THEE, WITCHFINDER, TO HAVE ME SO?

JEST NOT WITH ME, WENCH, FOR THY LIFE AND THY SOUL ARE IN THE BALANCE. GENTLEMEN OF PARTS HAVE SWORN THEY'VE SEEN THEE IN CONGRESS WITH THE EVIL ONE.

THAT GENTLEMEN OF PARTS HAVE HAD THEIR EYES ON ME I'LL DOUBT NOT.

A QUICK CONFESSION NOW WILL SAVE THY SOUL AND THEE MUCH MISERY.

HAST THOU A WITCHMARK, WENCH?

OH, SOMETHING THOU WISHEST TO SEEK, YES?

I AM A MAN WHO KNOWS HIS DUTIES.

RRRRIP!

PROP MISTRESS IS NOT GOING TO LIKE THAT.

NO INDEED.

LIKEST THOU WHAT THOU SEEST? WITCHFINDER. A DIS-APPOINTMENT TO SEE NOUGHT BUT SMOOTH SKIN?

OR PERHAPS NOT? PERHAPS THERE'S A TICKLE IN THY LOINS INSTEAD...

HOW ***DARE*** THEE, WANTON!

SMACK!

SMACK!

OH!

SMACK!

OH!

TEMPT ME NOT, GIRL.

WHAT MATTERETH IT? I'VE HEARD TELL FROM GOODY THOMAS THAT THY MEMBER IS SMALL AS A NEW KITTEN.

AS SOFT AND HARMLESS TOO.

THIS IS INTENSE.

SHHH!

AWAY, YOU THREE-INCH FOOL!*

*THE TAMING OF THE SHREW, ACT IV, SCENE 1

RIP!

WAIT A MINUTE... WHEN SHE CHANGED SHE TOOK OFF HER...

SHUT *UP!*

WHORE! MY FULL-GROWN AND HUNGRY TOM WILL TEACH THEE A LESSON!

THOU CALL'ST THYSELF "WITCHFINDER," AND YET...

...THOU WOULDST NOT KNOW WHEN THOU WERT ABOUT TO BE ENSPELLED.

OH!

I CALL ON YOU:
ILONAUZAR! FYEWATCHETT!
JAMARA! GRIZZELL
GREEDIGUT!

OH!

OH!

AH!

SPIRITS OF AIR! POWERS INVISIBLE! THEY ARE TEARING AT ME.

RIPPING INTO ME. LORD JESUS HELP ME!

flop!

twist

writhe

GUGUGUG GUGUGUGUG...

WELL, ISN'T SOMEONE GOING TO HELP THAT POOR MAN?

SAY, "OATMEAL," SOMEBODY.

PRETTY AMAZING WORK, GUYS. YOU SHOWED REAL COMMITMENT.

YEAH. AND YOU GUYS TOPPED EVEN US! HOW DID YOU...?

PIZZA!

SODA + CORN SYRUP

IT WAS A TRICK I LEARNED AT THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL IN CHIANG MAI.

YOU KNOW WHAT WE SHOULD DO? MAKE OUR OWN PORN.

GET OUT!

NO, SERIOUSLY. MOST PORN IS FORMULAIC, COMMERCIAL DRECK. BUT WHAT WE HAVE HERE IS ACTING TALENT, IMAGINATION, ***COMMITMENT***...

TO SAY NOTHING OF OUR AWESOME GOOD LOOKS.

WITH COMPUTER GRAPHICS BEING AS GOOD AS THEY ARE NOW, WE COULD "FILM" JUST ABOUT ANYTHING.

HISTORICAL FICTION.

HIGH FANTASY.

EVEN SCIENCE FICTION.

YOU ALL SHOULD GET BUSY WRITING YOUR IDEAS DOWN.

JUST DON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT IT JUST NOW, OKAY?

The Godfather
SHERLOCK

THEY ARE VANISHING US ONE BY ONE
AND I AM FRIGHTENED. MARY K.

THIS TURD WILL KILL ME YET...

The Godfather

Forward
News • Culture • Opinion • Life • Yiddish
The biggest stories of the day sent straight to your inbox.
וויידעאַ: ליאַנאַ יעלען –
שטום־לשון־אידערזעצערין
WATCH: Leana Jelen - Yiddish-Speaking Sign Language Interpreter
What Mayor De Blasio's Yiddish Whatsapp Actually Says

THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSING IN FIFTEEN MINUTES.

CHIARA? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? IT'S ALMOST 1 A.M.

I COULDN'T SLEEP... THERE WAS SOMETHING I REALLY WANTED TO TRY TO LOOK UP.

I GET THAT. I OFTEN CAN'T SLEEP.

WELL, THE GOOD NEWS IS THEY OPEN UP AGAIN AT SEVEN.

WALK YOU BACK?

SURE, THANKS.

IT'S JUST THE START OF FRESHMAN YEAR.

I IMAGINE THERE WILL BE A LOT OF TIME FOR FINDING THINGS OUT.

EMERGENCY

WOMEN of GNOSIS COLLEGE

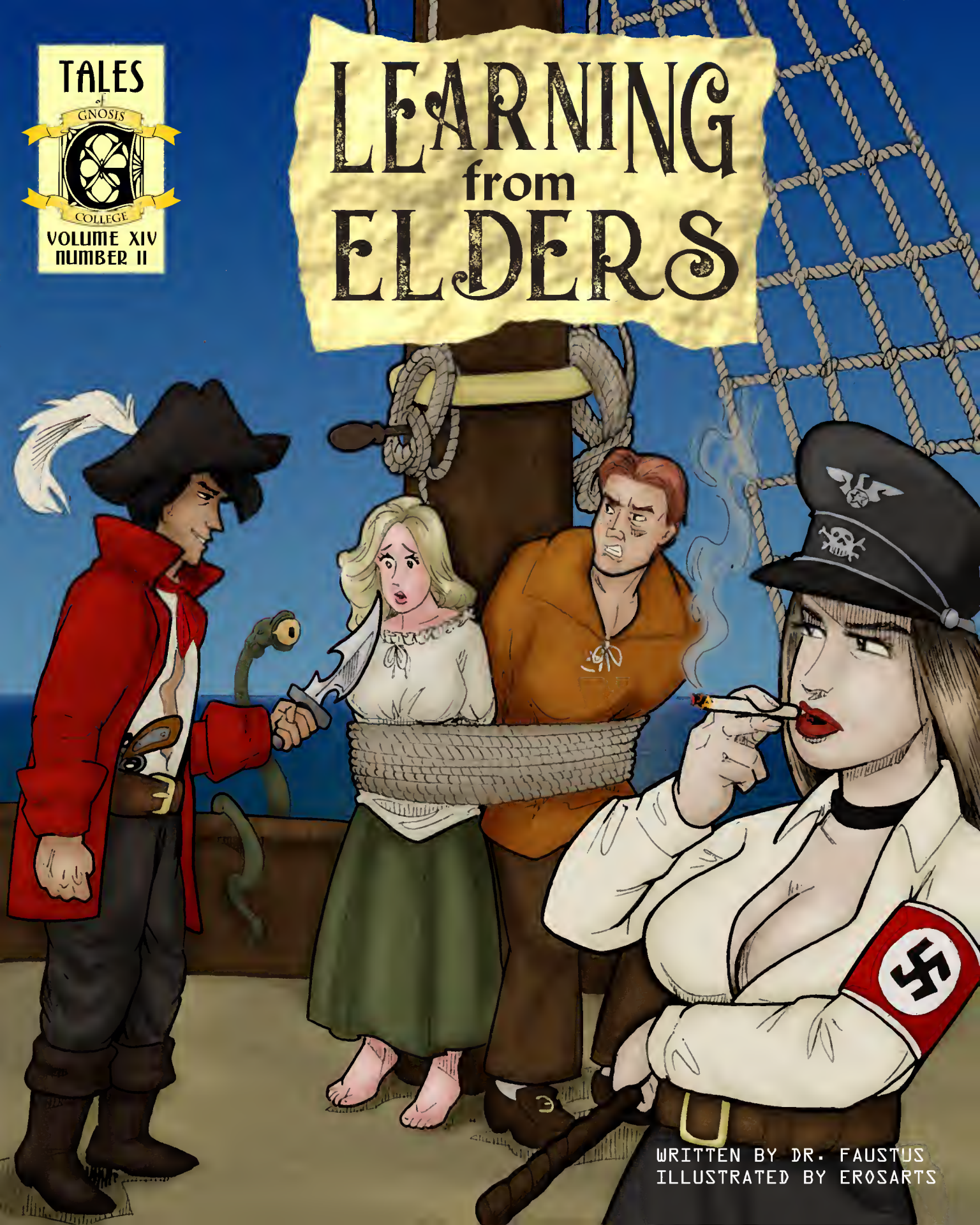
CHIARA TAGLIACOZZO

IT SEEMED IMPROBABLE THAT THE CREATURE HAD NEVER ENCOUNTERED AN EARTH WOMAN BEFORE; IT KNEW EXACTLY WHAT IT WANTED AND WHERE TO FIND IT!

RAISING HER STAFF AND WAVING HER HAND, THE SORCERESS DISPATCHED WITH THE GOOD KNIGHT'S ARMOR, LEAVING HIM AT HER MERCY!

TALES of GNOSIS COLLEGE
VOLUME XIV
NUMBER II

LEARNING from ELDERS



WRITTEN BY DR. FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY EROSARTS

NEAR GNOSIS COLLEGE, 1972.

WRRRR

FVJ22-7

LOOKS LIKE WE MIGHT HAVE ANOTHER ONE HERE, TED.

THAT WOULD BE THE THIRD THIS MONTH.

THIS ONE HAD AN ID. NEW YORK DRIVER'S LICENSE.

NEW YORK STATE

LIPTON, DEBORAH
4076 BOONE ST.
FLUSHING NY 11364
EYES: BL SEX: F
HT: 5' 5" RESTRICTIONS:A
BIRTHDAY: 10/07/1953
L07573 40233 194431 10

IT SAYS HER NAME WAS DEBORAH LIPTON. TWENTY THREE YEARS OLD.

PRETTY, TOO. EVEN IN HER DL PHOTO.

UH HUH. I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO WAKE UP DETECTIVE NAGURSKI.

A GNOSIS COLLEGE PHYSICS SEMINAR, PRESENT DAY.

THE SQUERNIONS ARE NORMALLY GENERATED ONLY BY REMOTE SPATIO-TEMPORAL ANOMALIES, BUT THEY CAN BE DETECTED TERRESTRIALLY BY A SIMPLE CIRCUIT LIKE THIS ONE, IN WHICH THEY INDUCE A MICRO-VOLTAGE...

YES, MR. FOX?

IS IT TRUE, PROFESSOR YOSHIKAWA, THAT A NINETEENTH CENTURY GNOSIS COLLEGE SCIENTIST NAMED HOFFMANN SUCCEEDED IN GENERATING TERRESTRIAL SQUERNIONS?

AS I HEARD IT PROFESSOR HOFFMANN WAS A CRANK WHO DRANK HIMSELF TO DEATH.

THOUGH SOME OF THE EQUIPMENT AND NOTES HE LEFT BEHIND ARE IN THE COLLEGE MUSEUM AND ARE SUGGESTIVE OF A ***POTENTIALLY*** INTERESTING MIND...

SO YOUR LABORATORY THIS WEEK WILL BE TO ATTEMPT TO DUPLICATE ONE OF THESE CIRCUITS AND TEST IT ON KNOWN CELESTIAL SOURCES OF SQUERNIONS. GOOD LUCK.

CLASS DISMISSED.

COME WITH ME TO O'SHEA'S. I CAN GET YOU IN. IT WILL BE FUN.

PLEASE SAY YES.

EVERYONE ELSE SAYS NO. BE ORIGINAL AND SAY YES!

OKAY, OKAY. I'LL COME.

SO YOUR GREAT-GRANDFATHER ACTUALLY WORKED ON DECRYPTING THE ENIGMA MACHINE?

HE WAS A MATHEMATICS INSTRUCTOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW, BUT HE ALSO HAD A POLISH ARMY RESERVE COMMISSION, AND WORKED FOR THEIR CRYPTOLOGIC SERVICE. HE...

AH!

THE SQUERNION CIRCUIT...

WHAT THE...

HEY, THERE'S NO SMOKING IN THIS BAR, BUDDY.

ALUMNI RECORDS REVEAL THAT 83 WOMEN NAMED MARY K-SOMETHING HAVE ATTENDED GNOSIS COLLEGE SINCE ROSE HALL WAS BUILT IN 1912.

NO RECORD OF ANY THEM HAVING ***DISAPPEARED***, THOUGH. LOTS OF CAREERS, LOTS OF GETTING MARRIED, LOTS OF GROWING OLD AND SHOWING UP AT THE 50TH REUNION. SEARCHES OF THE DIGITIZED RECORDS OF THE *GNOSIS ILLUMINATOR* AND THE *GNOSIS ALUMNI* MONTHLY DIDN'T TURN UP ANYTHING ALL THAT INTERESTING.

THERE'S ALWAYS THAT LAST RESORT, HE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

YES, DEAR. WE CAN CERTAINLY HELP YOU. WE HAVE COMPLETE RUNS OF *PLEASANT PRAIRIE REPUBLICAN-SENTINEL* ON MICROFILM AND THE *PLEASANT PRAIRIE POST* ON MICROFICHE. THERE WAS EVEN A LOCAL UNDERGROUND PAPER, THE *PRAIRIE FIRE*, FROM BACK IN THE 1960S AND 70S. WE HAVE THAT IN PAPER FOLIOS.

ANY OF IT DIGITIZED? OR AT LEAST INDEXED?

OH, NO. I'M AFRAID WE NEVER HAD THE BUDGET FOR THAT...

...SO THERE'S NO WAY I COULD PROCESS ALL THESE MATERIALS IN ANYTHING LIKE A REASONABLE TIME WITHOUT DIGITIZATION.

WORD ON THE QUAD IS THAT YOU'RE THE MOST TALENTED STUDENT ROBOTICIST AT GNOSIS. WITH THE RIGHT MANIPULATOR TOOLS AND AI SEARCH ALGORITHM...

THE PROJECT SOUNDS VERY INTERESTING, BUT WHY COME TO ME?

SOUNDS LIKE A LOT OF WORK.

OH, I AM AWARE OF THAT.

IS THIS DELTA PSI?

YES.

I HAVE A DELIVERY FOR A MISS WARE. THREE CASES OF CASTELLO TAGLIACOZZO MONTEPULCIANO D'ABRUZZO. 1997 VINTAGE. A VERY GOOD YEAR, OR SO THEY TELL ME.

YOU MIGHT HAVE YOURSELF A DEAL, CHIARA.

A FEW MONTHS LATER.

RRRFFFFT!

"THIS GROUP OF YOUNG LADY SAILORS HAS COME ALL THE WAY FROM ENGLAND TO STUDY ADVANCED NAVIGATIONAL TECHNIQUES ALONGSIDE THE FLYBOYS OF OUR OWN GNOSIS COLLEGE AVIATION TRAINING SCHOOL. 'WE'RE JUST HAPPY TO DO OUR PART FOR THE WAR EFFORT,' SAID ONE ***MARY KERR***, MADE AVAILABLE FOR AN INTERVIEW WITH THE *REGISTER-SENTINEL*."

DEMONIO!

NEWSBUSTER, SEE WHAT YOU CAN FIND CROSS-REFERENCED WITH... ENGLAND, BRITAIN, THE UNITED KINGDOM. MAKE IT A BIT WIDE, MAYBE 1935 TO 1950.

BUT... THAT PLACE IS JUST A PARKING LOT.

RAMPAGE

RAMPAGE

"CONSTRUCTION IS UNDERWAY AT THE NEW ANNEX FOR THE COLLEGE MUSEUM, EXPECTED TO HOUSE A COLLECTION OF ARTIFACTS PURCHASED FOR THE COLLEGE BY THE FABRIKANT FAMILY FROM OXFORD UNIVERSITY..."

ITING HOURS:
) am - 10 pm

L VISITORS
IUST SIGN
REGISTER

CAN I HELP YOU, SIR?

I HOPE SO. I'M HERE TO SEE MISS ROSENBAUM?

OH! YES, SHE TOLD ME THAT SOMEONE WOULD BE VISITING HER.

SHE'S IN THE LOUNGE RIGHT OVER THERE TO THE LEFT.

מיז ראזענבוים?

MIZ RAZENBOYM?
MS. ROSENBAUM?

איך בין ראז טשען. איך גלייב אז פראפעסאר שאפירא האט אייך געזאגט אז איך קום

יאָ?

YO?
YES?

IKH BIN RAZ TSHEN. IKH GLEYB AZ FRAFESAR SHAFIRA HAT EYKH GEZAGT AZ IKH KUM.
I AM RAZ CHEN. I BELIEVE PROFESSOR SHAPIRO TOLD YOU I WAS COMING.

ווי מאזלדיק איך בין צו האבן אַ שיין יונג מענטש וואס וויל צו לערנען ייִדיש מיט מיר.

VI MAZLDIK IKH BIN TSU HOBN A SHEYN IUNG MENTSH VOS VIL TSU LERNEN EYDISH MIT MIR.
HOW LUCKY I AM, TO HAVE A HANDSOME YOUNG MAN WHO WANTS TO PRACTICE YIDDISH WITH ME.

ALRIGHT, NOW THAT WE HAVE SOME SCRIPT TO WORK FROM, LET'S TRY SHOOTING THIS SCENE.

IT MIGHT NOT LOOK LIKE ONE, BUT TRY TO REMEMBER YOU'RE ON A LOVELY BEACH AT SUNSET...

WE'LL NEED TO IMAGINE THAT...

YES, BUT THE MAGIC OF ANIMATION WILL PROVIDE IT FOR THE VIEWER.

WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT ME TO THIS REMOTE BUT LOVELY PLACE, ALMANZO?

THAT I MIGHT BEG YOU FOR YOUR MAIDENLY FAVORS, SWEET GWENDOLINE.

WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF SACRED MATRIMONY? OH ALMANZO, HOW COULD YOU IMAGINE SUCH A THING?

BUT ***NONE*** CAN SEE US HERE, GWENDOLINE.

BUT ***GOD*** CAN SEE US EVERYWHERE!

GOD IS WATCHING EVERY TIME YOU MAKE WATER, AND EVERY TIME YOU MAKE NIGHT SOIL, AND EVERY TIME YOUR PARENTS LIE WITH ONE ANOTHER, AND WAS WATCHING WHEN FATHER BROWN DID WHATEVER THAT THING WAS THAT MADE THE KING'S MEN COME AND TAKE HIM AWAY IN CHAINS, AND...

HMM...

BUT ALSO I FEAR THAT ***PIRATES*** MIGHT FREQUENT THIS LONELY PLACE.

OH, BE NOT ABSURD, GWENDOLINE...

THE ROYAL NAVY HAS LONG SINCE WIPED OUT ALL THE PIRATES. THEY TELL THE STORY IN RC COMICS!

Captain BRASSBALLS

STRICTLY SPEAKING AS AN ILLITERATE PEASANT LAD I CAN'T "READ" THE BOOK.

BUT I CAN SURE FOLLOW THE STORY THROUGH THE PICTURES!

ON THIS PAGE, CAPTAIN BRASSBALLS AND HIS HEROIC CREW USE GREEK FIRE TO INCINERATE AN ENTIRE PIRATE VILLAGE...

I DON'T KNOW...

HOWEVER LOVELY, THIS PLACE MAKES MY HEART UNEASY.

NO!

ALMANZO, SAVE ME!

I'LL SAVE YOU, MY LOVE!

THUNK!

WELL, WHAT A PRETTY CATCH WE'VE HAD TODAY!

GOOD LAD, CTHULHU! HAVE YE A SQUIDDIE SNACK.

THIS ONE WE CAN SELL FOR A PRETTY FLORIN IN THE LUST MARKETS OF YNIG.

YOU'LL NOT GET AWAY WITH THIS, BLACKGUARD! THE ROYAL NAVY...

HA! YE THINK CAPTAIN BRASSBALLS IS COMING TO SAVE YOU, BOY!

HE'S A WORK OF FICTION! A TOOL OF ROYALIST PROPAGANDA! AN ELEMENT OF HEGEMONIC PROTO-STATE IDEOLOGY!

SUCH DEFIANCE IS NOT SALEABLE.

STRIP AND BIND OUR YOUNG HERO HERE TO THE MAST AND BRING ME MY CASTRATIN' KNIFE.

ULP!

NO! DESIST! HARM HIM NOT!

I OFFER YOU AND YOUR COMRADES MYSELF IN YOUR STEAD.

BAH!

WE'VE NO INTEREST IN AN UNPLUCKT' CHICKEN LIKE YOU. T'WOULD BE LIKE ROGERING A RAGDOLL...

NO! T'WILL NOT! I PROMISE MY FULL ENTHUSIASM...

WELL. LET'S SEE THEN.

SHHHHIK!

BUT ONLY IF WE ARE ALL WELL PLEASED AT YOUR PERFORMANCE WILL YOUR LOVER'S WEDDING TACKLE BE SAVED.

AW, POOR LADDIE. TRAPPED WITHOUT RELIEF!

BUT SOOMETIMES IN TROOBLE THERE'S A HELPIN' HAND.

IS THAT NAE BETTER?

AH!

T'IS!

HA! A MOST EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE ALL-ROUND!

YOU'LL BE TRAVELIN' IN THE CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS THE REST OF THE WAY, GIRL.

HOW DID YE LEARN ABOUT ALL THAT?

NEAR OUR VILLAGE THERE ARE BOTH A NUNNERY AND A SEMINARY, AND I AM A GOOD OBSERVER, CAPTAIN.

AS FOR THE BOY, HE TRAVELS IN ECONOMY.

I THINK THAT FIRST NIGHT'S WORK WENT WELL.

MORE FUN THAN I IMAGINED IT WOULD BE.

DID ANYONE REMEMBER TO THANK TAYLOR CHASE FOR PUTTING TOGETHER THE *CAPTAIN BRASSBALLS* COVER?

CRAAAACK!

POP

אַז אַניאַ
טיילער-פֿרייד זיכער איז
איין ווייך הינדל.

AZ ANYA TEYLER-FREYD ZIKHER IZ EYN VEYKH HINDL.
THAT ANYA TAYLOR-JOY SURE IS ONE TENDER CHICKEN.

אסתר!

ESTER!
ESTHER!

איר זענט
אַ חידוש אַלט
דאַמע.

IR ZENT A KHIDUSH ALT DAME.
YOU ARE A SURPRISING OLD LADY.

געווייַנטלעך.

GEVEYNTLEKH.
NATURALLY.

VENTUNO, VENTIDUE....

I corpi presentano tracce di violenza carnale: filmati censurati

NATURALLY, THERE IS A *QUID PRO QUO* INVOLVED.

I corpi presentano tracce di violenza carnale: filmati censurati

TREDICI, QUATTORDICI...

CAN I HELP YOU, MISS?

THIS IS A RESTRICTED AREA, MISS.

WELL I WAS JUST...

WHAT'S BEHIND THAT DOOR?

THERE IS ***NOTHING*** BEHIND THAT DOOR, MISS.

WHY WOULD ANYONE INSTALL A DOOR TO NOTHING?

YOURS IS A PECULIAR ATTITUDE FOR AN EMPLOYEE OF AN INSTITUTION OF ***HIGHER LEARNING***.

Mauve alert!
Mauve alert!

CRAP.

WHAT THE?

ONE OF ***THOSE***. I REALLY HATE IT WHEN WE HAVE ONE OF ***THOSE***.

THERE IS NOTHING TO ***LEARN*** BEHIND THAT DOOR, MISS.

PLEASE DO NOT REQUIRE ME TO TAKE ***MEASURES***.

TESTA DI CAZZO, I'M GOING!

OH GOOD, SHE'S COMPLYING.

WHAT IS THE DEAL WITH THAT ROOM, ANYWAY?

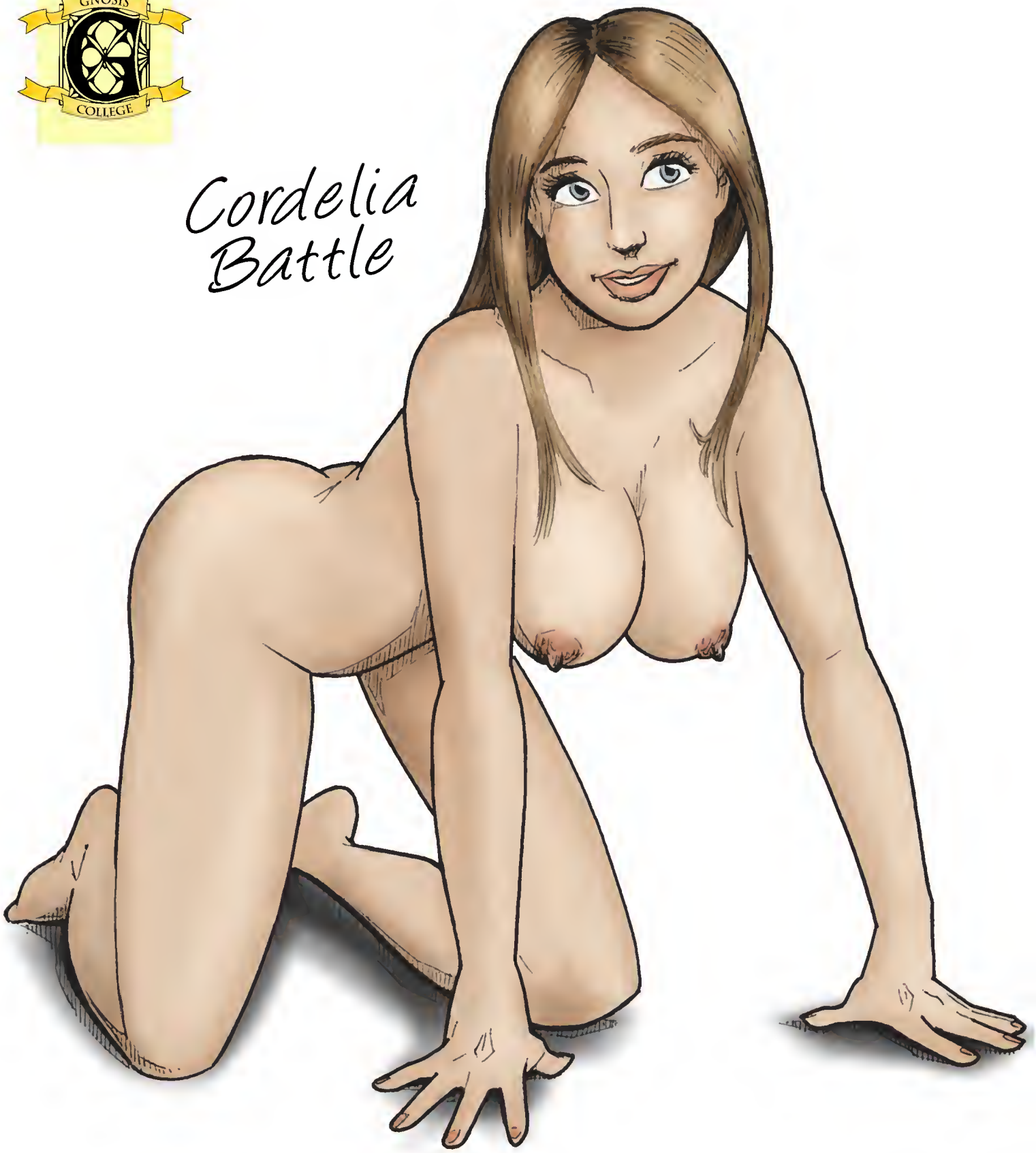
THERE WERE SOME DISAPPEARANCES OF YOUNG WOMEN ASSOCIATED WITH IT BACK IN THE 70S. NOW EVERYTHING IS VERY BUTTONED UP. RESEARCH INVOLVING IT REQUIRES WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION FROM THE PRESIDENT.

THE PRESIDENT OF GNOSIS COLLEGE?

NO. THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

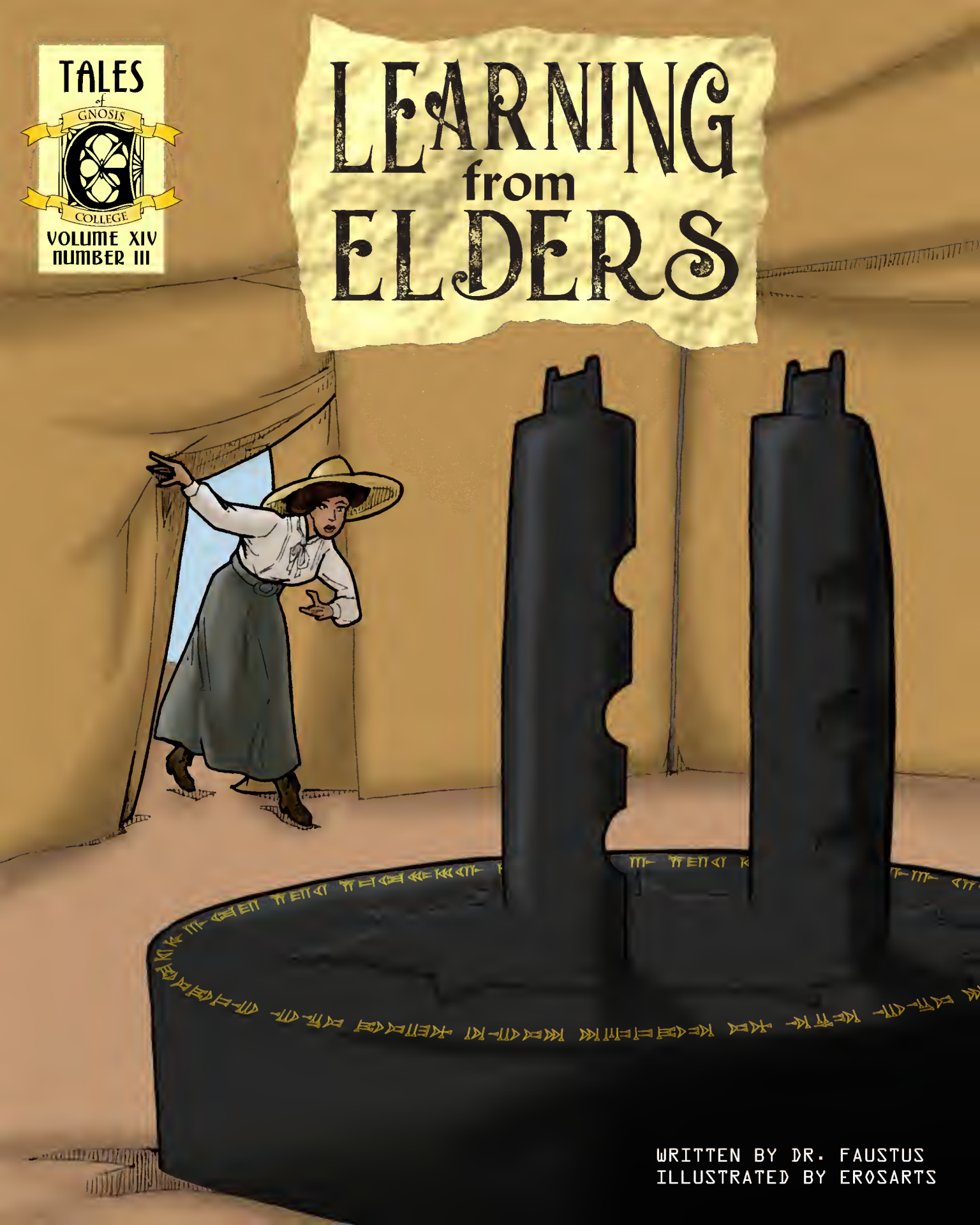
WOMEN of GNOSIS COLLEGE

Cordelia Battle



TALES of GNOSIS COLLEGE
VOLUME XIV
NUMBER III

LEARNING from ELDERS



WRITTEN BY DR. FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY EROSARTS

107

KNOCK! KNOCK!

DR. STEVENSON?

AND WHO ARE YOU AGAIN, MISS...?

ALTSCHULER. AMY ALTSCHULER. I'M ONE OF THE CODERS.

AH, YES. ONE OF THE GIRLS WHO HELPS RUN THE ELECTRONIC COMPUTATION MACHINES. WELL, WHY ARE YOU HERE TO SEE ME?

THERE'S A FOURTH SIGNAL COMING FROM THE KEPLER SYSTEM.

IT'S MASKED BY OTHER, MORE POWERFUL RADIO EMISSIONS, BUT IT ***IS*** THERE. I'M SURE OF IT.

1958. DEEP IN THE NEW MEXICO DESERT, AT RADIOTELESCOPE 37-F, AMY ALTSCHULER HAS MADE AN UNSETTLING DISCOVERY.

AND YOU DETECTED THIS SIGNAL THAT THE REST OF US HAVE MISSED USING, WHAT? YOUR WOMEN'S INTUITION?

NO, DR. STEVENSON. SEVERAL WEEKS OF STATISTICAL ANALYSIS, DONE ON MY OWN TIME.

IT TOOK A LOT OF CALCULATION TO CONTROL FOR OTHER SIGNALS AND VARIOUS BACKGROUND STATIC, BUT I'M NOW WITHIN A 95% CONFIDENCE INTERVAL THAT THE SIGNAL IS REAL.

SO YOU THINK YOU'VE FOUND A NEW SOURCE? WELL, GOOD FOR YOU.

IT'S NOT ANY ORDINARY COSMIC SOURCE, DR. STEVENSON.

...he application of the final transform function yields the probable signal:

.- . .--. .-.. . .-. /
.... ..---
....- ..-. / .. ... / .- / .
.-. .- -.. .. ... . /
-- ..-. / .--. .-.. . .- ...
-. . / - .... . / .-- .- -.-
.... . / .--. ... -.--
.-. ... --- -....-
-. . .-.. ... / -... .-.. .
.. / - --- --. .
... . .-. / .-- ..
... / .- .-.. .-.. / --- .
-. .- -. ..
.- / .-.. .. ..-. . /
. .-.. .-.. / .- .-.. .-..
.-. - .... / .-- --- -- . -
--- / .- -.-. -.-. . ... ..
... . / . .-. --- - --- .-
-- .-.. --- -. / .- -. -..
-. --- -- . / .... . .-. .
-- . -.. .. .- - . .-.. -.
-.--

IT'S MORSE CODE. AND IT'S ENGLISH.

"KEPLER 62-F IS A PARADISE OF PLEASURE THE WAY THE PSYCHO-GELS BLEND TOGETHER WITH ALL ORGANIC LIFE TELL ALL EARTH WOMEN TO ACCESS THE EROTOPYLON AND COME HERE IMMEDIATELY!"

MISS ALTSCHULER, DO YOU REALLY FIND ALL THIS CREDIBLE?

THE DETAILS OF MY ANALYSIS ARE ALL IN THE REPORT, DR. STEVENSON. I HAVE CHECKED THEM SEVERAL TIMES...

EVEN IF CORRECT, DON'T YOU THINK THIS IS MOST LIKELY JUST SOMEONE'S JUVENILE PRANK?

NO CIVILIAN RADIOS OPERATE AT THE RELEVANT FREQUENCIES, DR. STEVENSON.

ALRIGHT, MISS STEVENSON, I PROMISE WE WILL LOOK INTO IT.

NOW IF YOU DON'T MIND, I HAVE AN IMPORTANT MEETING TO ATTEND.

GET GENERAL BULLSHOT ON THE LINE.

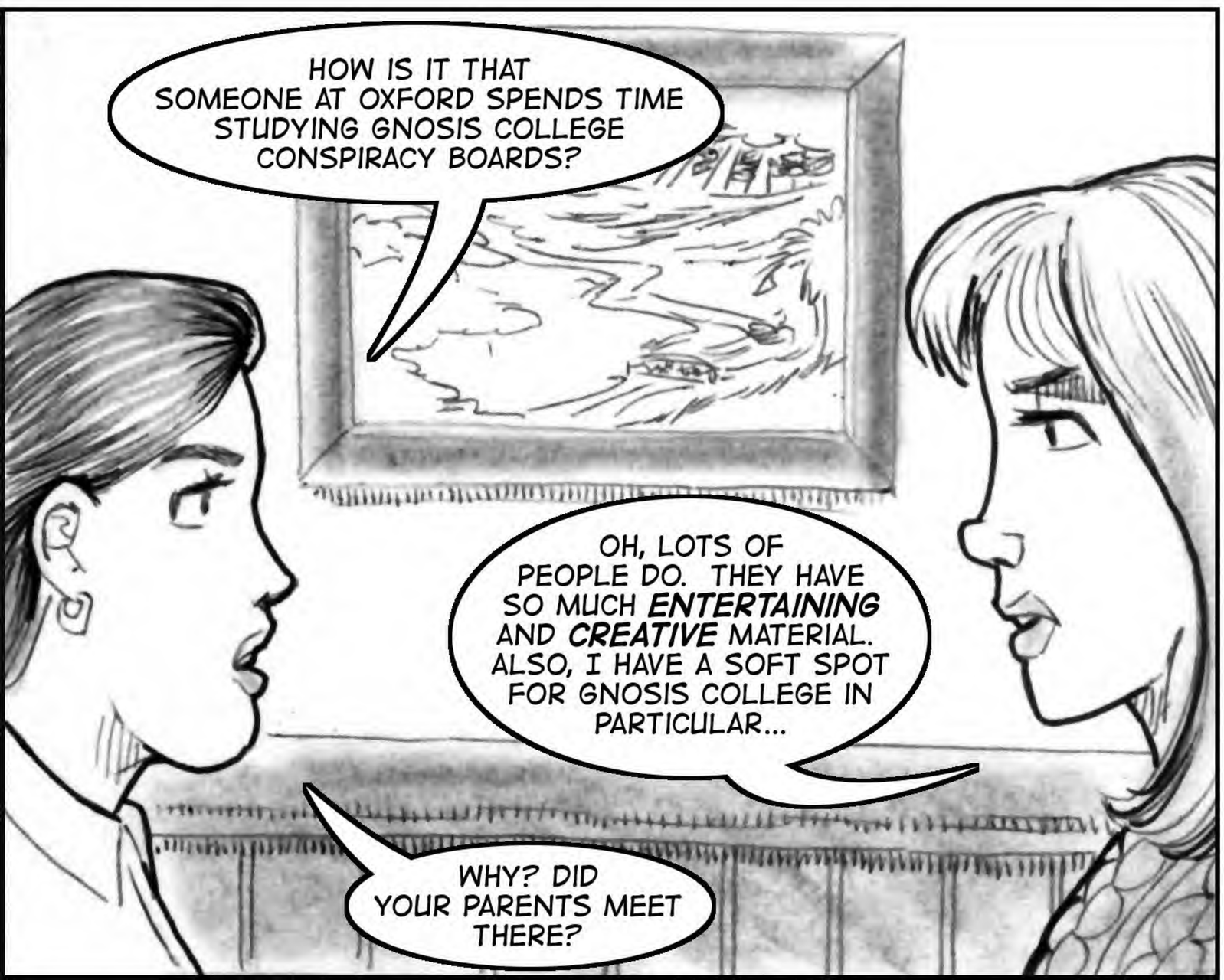
YES, PEGGY. THE ONE AT THE PENTAGON.

YES, WE UNDERSTAND, DR. STEVENSON. THANK YOU FOR REPORTING THIS TO US.

WE SHALL TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO MAKE SURE THIS MISS ALTSCHULER DOES NOT TALK OUT OF SCHOOL.

ALBION
B17 11:00am
HEATHROW
ALBION
18 7:15 am
LONDON OXFORD
AIRPORT
ENJOY YOUR FLIGHT TO LONDON, MS. TAGG-LIE-A-KOZO.
=SIGH=
THANK YOU.
MANY LINES OF INQUIRY SEEM TO LEAD BACK TO THE UNITED KINGDOM.
AND NOW IT SEEMS LIKE I HAVE A CONTACT WHO MIGHT KNOW SOMETHING.

Rabbit Room
CHIARA TAGLIACOZZO?
TABITHA CHASE?
WELCOME TO THE ANCIENTEST UNIVERSITY, CHIARA.


HOW IS IT THAT SOMEONE AT OXFORD SPENDS TIME STUDYING GNOSIS COLLEGE CONSPIRACY BOARDS?
OH, LOTS OF PEOPLE DO. THEY HAVE SO MUCH ***ENTERTAINING*** AND ***CREATIVE*** MATERIAL. ALSO, I HAVE A SOFT SPOT FOR GNOSIS COLLEGE IN PARTICULAR...
WHY? DID YOUR PARENTS MEET THERE?

SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

YOUR POST ABOUT A FABRIKANT FAMILY ACQUISITION OF AN OXFORD ANTIQUITY IN THE 1930S SEEMED REALLY... ***NEW*** AND ***GENUINE*** COMPARED TO MOST OF THE CONSPIRACY STUFF. SO I DID SOME ASKING AROUND.

ONLY

AFTER AN UNUSUAL DISPLAY OF FEMININE KINDNESS ON MY PART, THE WARDEN OF NEW COLLEGE CAME WITH UP A NAME FOR THAT ANTIQUITY: "EROTOPYLON." AND AN ELDERLY USED BOOKSELLER HERE TURNED UP A PAMPHLET WITH THAT NAME IN IT.

ALRIGHT, MR. LEWIS. I THINK YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH FOR TODAY.

...LIAR, LUNATIC, OR LORD!

WE'LL CALL YOU A TAXI.

"THE EROTOPYLON. AN ACCOUNT BY LT. COL. FREDERICK PRENTISS, M.A., MC AND THE TRUE STORY OF ITS ROLE IN THE DISAPPEARANCE OF CELESTINA MOUNTJOY, AS TOLD TO THE HON. MISS GRACE WALKER, VADN."

WOW, TABITHA. HOW CAN I THANK YOU FOR THIS?

DO YOU LIKE SEX WITH GIRLS?

"YES."

"IN 1897, HAVING COMPLETED TWO YEARS UNDER THE TUTELAGE OF PROFESSOR PAUL HAUPT, I JOINED THE MESOPOTAMIAN EXPEDITION OF SIR REGINALD MOUNTJOY AS A SPECIALIST IN SUMERIAN WRITING."

"CONDITIONS IN THAT BARREN REGION WERE HARSH."

"SIR REGINALD WAS ACCOMPANIED ON THE EXPEDITION BY HIS DAUGHTER CELESTINA, WHO INSISTED ON ACCOMPANYING HIM."

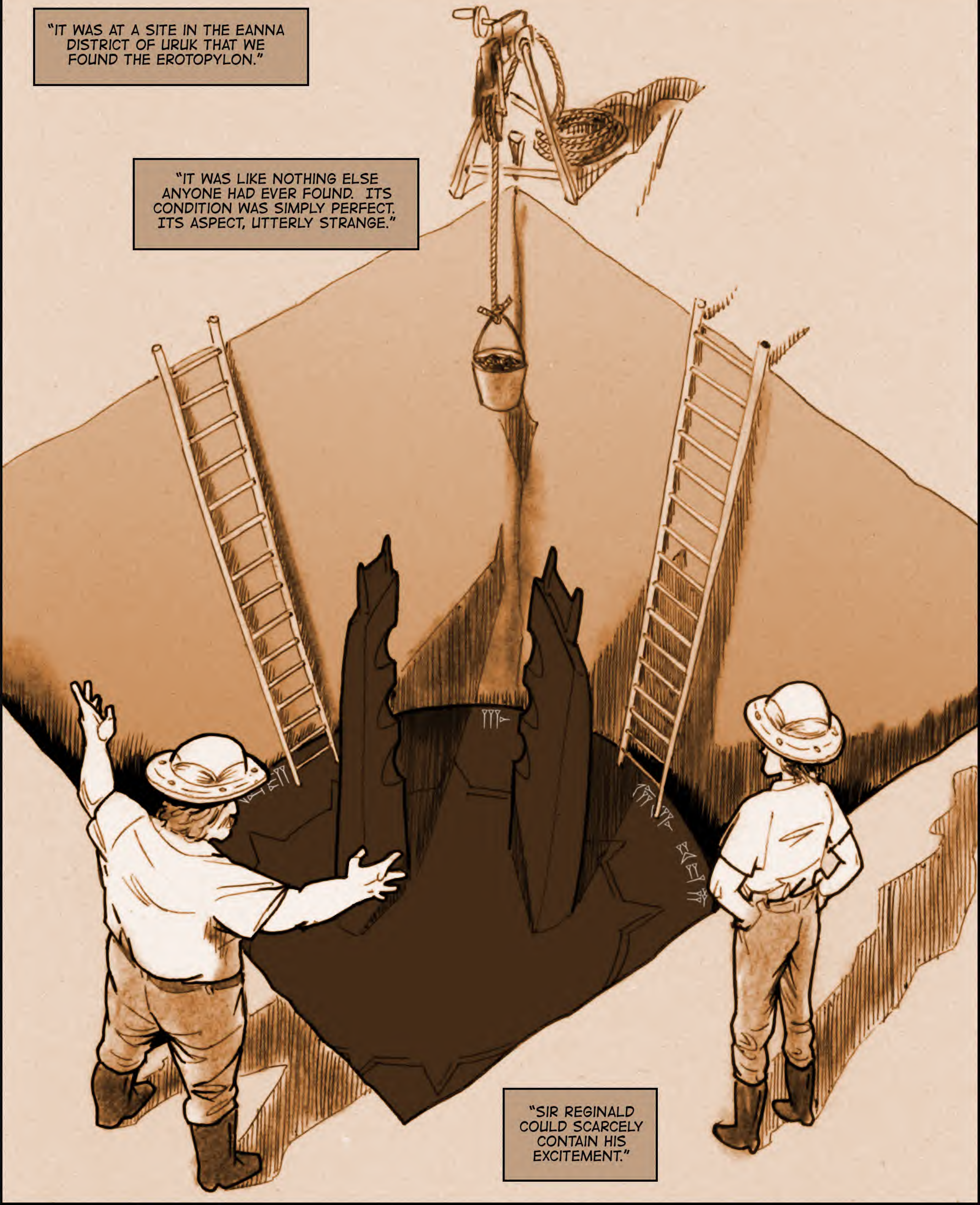
"THOUGH A MAN OF IRON WILL IN EVERY OTHER RESPECT, SIR REGINALD WAS A REMARKABLY INDULGENT FATHER."

"SHE WAS SO DEVASTATINGLY BEAUTIFUL -- CELESTINA.

"IF ONLY I HAD UNDERSTOOD HOW EQUALLY BRILLIANT SHE WAS -- WHAT A TRAGEDY MIGHT HAVE BEEN PREVENTED!"

"IT WAS AT A SITE IN THE EANNA DISTRICT OF URUK THAT WE FOUND THE EROTOPYLON."

"IT WAS LIKE NOTHING ELSE ANYONE HAD EVER FOUND. ITS CONDITION WAS SIMPLY PERFECT. ITS ASPECT, UTTERLY STRANGE."



"SIR REGINALD COULD SCARCELY CONTAIN HIS EXCITEMENT."

CAN YOU TRANSLATE THE INSCRIPTION, PRENTISS?

I BELIEVE SO, SIR REGINALD. IT APPEARS TO BE HIGH CLASSICAL SUMERIAN.

A FAIR TRANSLATION MIGHT BE "SHOULD A BOLD WOMAN SO DARE, LET HER PLEASURE HERSELF HERE AND SHE SHALL BE FAR-CAST INTO A REALM OF SURPASSING PLEASURE." "FAR-CAST" IS MY BEST EFFORT, SIR REGINALD. THE VERB SUGGESTS TRANSPORT OF A VERY GREAT DISTANCE.

GOOD LORD...

I MUST ASK YOU IN ALL SERIOUSNESS NOT TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH CELESTINA.

CERTAIN MATTERS ARE SCARCELY APPROPRIATE FOR A YOUNG WOMAN OF HER BREEDING AND POSITION.

OF COURSE, SIR REGINALD.

I HAVE HEARD, MR. PRENTISS, THAT THE ARTIFACT BEARS AN ELABORATE CUNEIFORM INSCRIPTION. HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO DECIPHER IT?

AH, WELL, MISS MOUNTJOY... IT IS A RATHER ***UNUSUAL*** VARIANT ON WHAT I TAKE TO BE... AKKADIAN AND IT MAY TAKE SOME TIME BEFORE...

WHAT A ***PITY*** I NEVER MANAGED TO LEARN... *AKKADIAN*, WAS IT?

WE WERE TOO TRUSTING.
OR TOO ARROGANT.

MY TENT WAS THE ONE NEAREST TO THE DIG.

IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE SOUND OF THE LADDER FALLING THAT STARTLED ME OUT OF MY WORK.

MISS MOUNTJOY! WHAT IN GOD'S NAME ARE YOU DOING?

MEN LIKE YOU AND FATHER CANNOT IMAGINE THAT I MIGHT LEARN TO READ SUMERIAN ON MY OWN, CAN YOU?

I HAVE BEEN READING IN MY FATHER'S LIBRARY SINCE I WAS EIGHT. I BEGAN WITH ASSYRIOLOGY...

CELESTINA, PLEASE! LET ME GET YOU OUT OF THERE BEFORE THERE IS A SCANDAL!

I SHOULD ***TRUST*** YOU, MR. PRENTISS?

NOT FOUR HOURS AGO YOU ***LIED*** TO ME ABOUT WHAT LANGUAGE THIS INSCRIPTION WAS IN.

I ADMIT THAT. AND I AM SORRY.

I WAS DOING YOUR FATHER'S BIDDING.

YES. MY FATHER'S BIDDING.

I MIGHT BE ENROLLED IN SOMERVILLE COLLEGE RIGHT NOW, MR. PRENTISS. I MIGHT BE BECOMING A SCHOLAR IN MY OWN RIGHT.

BUT ***FATHER*** WOULDN'T HEAR OF THAT.

I GROW WEARY OF THE WORLD THAT MEN HAVE MADE FOR ME, MR. PRENTISS.

AND SO I INTEND TO LEAVE IT, MR. PRENTISS.

I BELIEVE A LITTLE *LISANT AVEC UNE MAIN* WILL DO THE TRICK.

OH...

I SHOULD HAVE RETRIEVED THE LADDER, GONE FOR HELP, ANYTHING. BUT INSTEAD I COULD ONLY WATCH, PARALYZED AS THE BIZARRE RITUAL PROCEEDED.

THE SPECTACLE BECAME UNEARTHLY.

OH!

OH INANNA, OH GODDESS, YES!

WHAT HAPPENED WAS THE MOST UNHOLY THING I HAVE EVER HAD THE MISFORTUNE TO WITNESS.

GOOD GOD, PRENTISS. WHAT HAS HAPPENED HERE?

I...

I COULD NOT BRING MYSELF TO EXPLAIN WHAT I HAD SEEN.

MY CHERISHED ASPIRATIONS FOR AN ACADEMIC CAREER NECESSARILY DIED THERE AND THEN.

Rabbit Room
VARIOUS RUMORS WOULD CIRCULATE ABOUT CELESTINA MOUNTJOY FOR SOME YEARS.
SOME WOULD ALLEGE HER ELOPEMENT WITH AN INAPPROPRIATE YOUNG MAN. OR THAT SHE HAD BEEN ABDUCTED BY ARAB SLAVERS AND SOLD INTO A HAREM.
THE EROTOPYLON WAS SHIPPED TO OXFORD FOR FURTHER STUDY.
HAD ANYONE LISTENED TO ME, THEY WOULD HAVE REBURIED IT AND NEVER RETURNED TO ITS SITE.
THROUGH THE INFLUENCE OF FRIENDS I WAS ABLE TO PROCURE A COMMISSION IN THE INDIAN ARMY.
AFTER THE CHALLENGES OF SUMERIAN, MASTERY OF URDU AND PUNJABI CAME VERY EASILY.

I SUPPOSE I WAS GOOD ENOUGH A SOLDIER, WINNING A MILITARY CROSS AT NEUVE CHAPELLE.

BUT FATE WOULD BRING ME BACK TO MESOPOTAMIA.

I WAS WITH GENERAL MAUDE WHEN HE ENTERED BAGHDAD IN 1917.

I SUPPOSE I WAS GOOD ENOUGH A SOLDIER, WINNING A MILITARY CROSS AT NEUVE CHAPELLE.

BUT FATE WOULD BRING ME BACK TO MESOPOTAMIA.

I WAS WITH GENERAL MAUDE WHEN HE ENTERED BAGHDAD IN 1917.

SANTA MADONNA! BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE HON. MISS GRACE WALKER?

I KNEW YOU'D ASK, SO I DID A NEWS SEARCH.

CHECK THE FOLDER ON THE DESKTOP.

"DISAP-PEARANCE OF LORD WALKERTON'S SISTER IN OXFORDSHIRE PROMPTS SEARCH."

"MISS WALKER'S DRESS WAS IDENTIFIED BY HER BROTHER, THE CURRENT EARL OF WALKERTON. IT WAS FOUND IN THE VICINITY OF A WAREHOUSE BELONGING TO NEW COLLEGE. THE MASTER OF THE COLLEGE TOLD US THAT THE WAREHOUSE WAS USED TO STORE VARIOUS CURIOSITIES AND ANTIQUITIES OF NEAR EASTERN ORIGIN..."

SO IT SEEMS OBVIOUS WHY, WHEN AN AMERICAN PHILANTHROPIST SHOWS UP WITH A BAG OF MONEY, THE UNIVERSITY WOULD BE HAPPY TO OFFLOAD THE ARTIFACT AND ITS ASSOCIATED EMBARRASSMENT.

HMM.

I'M STILL NOT SURE IF THERE'S A CONNECTION TO OUR YOUNG WRENS, EVEN IF "THEY ARE DISAPPEARING US" MIGHT MAKE A LITTLE MORE SENSE.

ESPECIALLY GIVEN THAT PERHAPS GRACE WALKER MADE A DECISION TO DISAPPEAR ***HERSELF***.

I WONDER IF ANY OF THOSE WRENS DISAPPEARED THEMSELVES.

OR HAD OTHERS ***MAKE*** THEM DISAPPEAR.

TERMINALS 1,2,3

ROW

HACKING THE BRITISH STATE TO FIND OUT IF THERE'S A WREN CONNECTION WON'T BE EASY. WE HAVE AN OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT OVER HERE.

I HAVE AN IDEA WHAT MIGHT BE DONE.

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE NAMED TAYLOR CHASE BACK AT GNOSIS? GIVE HIM MY REGARDS IF YOU DO.

I'VE HEARD OF HIM BUT DON'T REALLY KNOW HIM. STRANGE GUY. DRAWS COMICS. RELATIVE OF YOURS?

SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

Departures

TRAVEL SAFE.

09:05	Vienna	AC6198	Boarding		Lisbon	EY5810	Gate shown 13:00
09:10	Stuttgart	AC6944	Flight closing		Cork	UA7645	Gate shown 13:00
09:15	Newquay	BE2182	Flight closing		unich	A31625	Gate shown 13:10
09:25	Singapore	VS7974	Go to Gate		ckholm	EY7454	Gate shown 13:10
09:30	Cork	EY7917	Boarding		bul	TK1990	Gate shown 13:20
09:30	Frankfurt	LH901	Delayed to		to	AI7309	Gate shown 13:10
09:40	Cologne	AC6948	Gate shown		on	LX3038	Gate shown 13:00
09:45	Delhi	AI162	Boarding		wer	LH6840	Gate shown 13:25
09:45	Aberdeen	SQ2486	Go to Gate			LX355	Gate shown 13:40
09:50	Dublin	UA7655	Gate shown 09:		h	VS8297	Gate shown 13:45
09:50	Shannon	EY7901	Go to Gate		62 Gate sh	AC6166	Gate shown 13:55
10:05	Newark	LX3040	Gate shown 08:		57855 Gate sh	AC6970	Gate shown 14:10
10:15	Warsaw	SQ2372	Gate shown 09:		AI172 Gate sh	LX3058	Gate shown 13:40
10:20	Oslo	EY7473	Gate shown 09:		TG911 Gate sho	CA788	Gate shown 13:30
10:25	San Francisco	OS7857	Gate shown 09:		ME4505 Gate sh	AC6512	Gate shown 13:50
10:30	Frankfurt	LH903	Gate shown 09		EY6142 Gate	City EI935	Gate shown 14:25
10:35	Stockholm	EY7452	Gate shown 0		838 G	OS462	Gate shown 14:40
10:35	Chicago	LX3044	Gate shown 0		46	furt LH909	Gate shown 14:50
10:50	Dublin	EI157	Gate shown 1			SK806	Gate shown 14:50
10:55	Munich	LH2473	Gate shown			nnon EY7903	Gate shown 15:00
11:05	Belfast City	EI931	Gate shown			ark LX3052	Gate shown 14:50
11:05	Brussels	SQ2824	Gate shown			kland NZ001	Gate shown 15:05
11:20	Edinburgh	SQ2472	Gate shown			e Los Angeles	

MEANWHILE, BACK IN PLEASANT PRAIRIE...

I APPRECIATE YOUR ALL SITTING MY HOUSE WHILE I'M IN ULAN BATOR. DON'T FORGET TO FEED THE KOMODO DRAGON AND REMEMBER, IF THE COPS COME TO THE FRONT DOOR YOU DON'T HAVE TO LET THEM IN WITHOUT A WARRANT. WEREN'T THERE SUPPOSED TO BE FOUR OF YOU?

THERE'S ALSO CHIARA. SHE HAD TO GO TO THE UK ON SOME URGENT BUSINESS. SHE JUST TEXTED TO SAY SHE WAS ON HER WAY BACK JUST NOW.

I CAN GIVE CHIARA HER KEYS.

THIS IS SOME SWEET SETUP, RAZ.

YEAH. I ACTUALLY HAD SOME PLANS FOR THAT FIFTH BEDROOM, IF NO ONE MINDS.

OH, REALLY?

YONI COMMUNE, 1969.

BAM!

BAM!

STATE POLICE! OPEN UP!

BAM!

BAM!

FUCKIN' HIPPIE!

CRUNCH

WELL, YOUNG LADY, IT SEEMS THAT THE POLICE WOULD LIKE TO CHARGE YOU WITH SOME RATHER SERIOUS NARCOTICS OFFENSES.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS EXAMINATION IS TO DETERMINE WHETHER YOU ARE FIT TO FACE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

BUT I MUST WARN YOU THAT YOU MIGHT BE FACING A LONG PERIOD OF INSTITUTIONALIZATION EITHER WAY...

I THINK I SHALL ONLY BE HERE AS LONG AS IT AMUSES ME TO BE HERE.

HMM.

CAN WE PERHAPS BEGIN BY YOU TELLING ME YOUR NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH?

CERTAINLY.

MY NAME IS CELESTINA MOUNTJOY.

AND I WAS BORN ON MARCH 3, 1876.

WOMEN of GNOSIS COLLEGE

Celestina Mountjoy

TALES of GNOSIS COLLEGE

VOLUME XIV
NUMBER IV

LEARNING from ELDERS

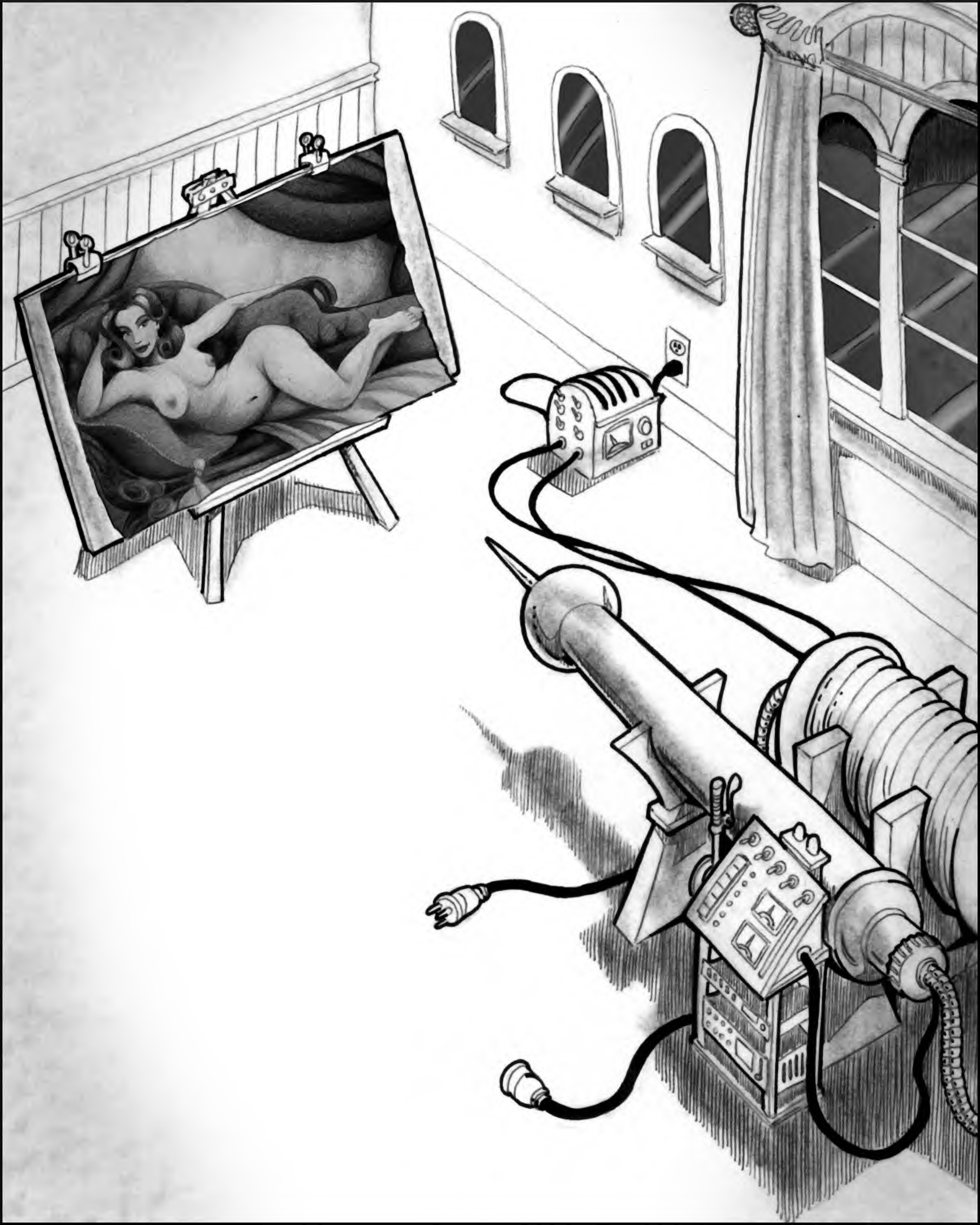
WRITTEN BY DR. FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY EROSARTS

PG

BZZT!

SKRRK!

HAPPY HOUR
SPECIALS



FLIP
FLIP
FLIP

KZAP!

CRACKLE!

=GASP SPLUTTER COUGH=

STAN, DID YOU THROW THE CIRCUIT BREAKERS *AGAIN?*

BOZHE MOY...

SHE'S ALIVE, I TELL YOU!

ALIVE!

=GASP=

YOU SEEM A BIT DEHYDRATED. DRINK THIS. IT WILL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER.

THANK YOU.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE PROFESSOR HOFFMANN IS?

WE... DON'T REALLY KNOW. COULD YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF? YOUR NAME, AGE, WHAT YOU DO?

MILLICENT. MILLICENT NEWMAN. I AM TWENTY-ONE YEARS OLD AND A JUNIOR AT GNOSIS COLLEGE.

MILLICENT... I MEAN, MISS NEWMAN, CAN YOU TELL US WHO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS?

WHY, IT'S GROVER CLEVELAND, OF COURSE. WHO WOULDN'T KNOW THAT?

YOU'VE REALLY DONE IT THIS TIME, BUDDY.

PLEASANT PRAIRIE REPUBLICAN-SENTINEL

"All the news you need for the twenty-first century."

HISTORIC PAINTING STOLEN FROM LOCAL TAVERN

WINIFRED HARGIVE
STAFF WRITER

PLEASANT PRAIRIE – Pleasant Prairie police say they have no leads at present in the theft of an historic painting from O'Shea's Saloon on the town square.

Police believe that the painting was stolen by a person or persons unknown who managed to disable the saloon's high-tech alarm system and gain access to a disused storage space over the saloon via a roof

PER AMOR DEL CIELO, STAN. HOW COULD YOU?

HOW COULD I?

MILLIE HAD HER LIFE TAKEN AWAY. I HAD THE CHANCE TO GIVE IT BACK TO HER. HOW ***COULDN'T*** I?

OH, SO THAT WAS THE NOBLE MOTIVATION...

STAN, MILLIE MIGHT BE ALIVE, BUT SHE'S IN A WORLD IN WHICH EVERYONE SHE EVER KNEW AND LOVED IS LONG DEAD.

SO YOU THINK SHE'S BETTER OFF DEAD?

I DON'T KNOW HOW ANYONE IS GOING TO BREAK THE NEWS TO HER. WHERE IS SHE NOW?

KA-THUNK!

SLEEPING. SHE SEEMED CONFUSED AND DISTRESSED SO I GAVE HER AN AMBIEN AND TOLD HER...

I GUESS MILLIE HAS FIGURED OUT WHERE SHE IS.

Alcuni vestiti di Lucy stanno a Millie, e lei sta mangiando un po'. Riesce a gestire un po' di elementare cura di sé.

SOME OF LUCY'S CLOTHES FIT MILLIE, AND SHE'S EATING A LITTLE. SHE CAN MANAGE SOME BASIC SELF-CARE.

Ma per il resto è chiusa in se stessa quasi fino alla catatonia. Non parla con nessuno di noi da 48 ore. Il più delle volte è a malapena consapevole della nostra presenza.

BUT SHE IS OTHERWISE WITHDRAWN ALMOST TO THE POINT OF CATATONIA. SHE HASN'T SPOKEN TO ANY OF US IN 48 HOURS. MOST OF THE TIME SHE BARELY ACKNOWLEDGES OUR PRESENCE.

Penso che Stan stia cominciando a credere di aver fatto una cosa terribile.

I THINK STAN IS BEGINNING TO BELIEVE HE HAS DONE A TERRIBLE THING.

Lucy, Raz e io abbiamo concordato che deve esserci sempre qualcuno a casa fino a quando non capiamo cosa fare. È il mio turno.

Blu-ray Disc

LUCY, RAZ, AND I HAVE AGREED THAT SOMEONE NEEDS TO BE HOME AT ALL TIMES UNTIL WE FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO. IT'S MY TURN.

Ho davvero bisogna di un diversivo.

I BADLY NEED A DISTRACTION.

ANG
SELEC
SUB
AUD
3
OH! MILLIE... I DIDN'T HEAR YOU.
WHY DON'T YOU COME IN AND WATCH WITH ME...

Non dimentichiamoci mai quale potere cela l'arte...

LET US NEVER FORGET WHAT POWER THERE IS IN ART...

I...

I'M VERY GRATEFUL TO YOU ALL. AND I'M SORRY HOW I'VE BEEN.

NO, DON'T BE. WHAT YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH MUST BE A TERRIBLE SHOCK.

DO ANY OF YOU IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY REMEMBER THE BATTLE OF ANTIETAM?

THOSE OF US WHO ARE AMERICANS CAN'T FORGET IT.

MY FATHER FOUGHT THERE AS PART OF GENERAL BURNSIDE'S CORPS.

JESUS.

I REMEMBER ONCE ASKING MY FATHER HOW HE GOT THROUGH IT, ALL THE HORROR AND BLOOD AND DEATH. HE TOLD ME "MILLIE, FATE DOES NOT OFFER US A CHOICE AS TO WHAT WE GO THROUGH. FATE GIVES US WHAT IT WILLS. YOU SIMPLY GO THROUGH."

NOW I HAVE TO SIMPLY GO THROUGH WHAT FATE HAS GIVEN ME.

I MIGHT NEED A LITTLE HELP.

WE'LL HELP. OF COURSE WE'LL HELP.

LOOK, I TALKED TO MY FRIEND TABITHA.

NOTHING FAZES THAT WOMAN. "WE HAVE A GUEST FROM THE NINETEENTH CENTURY." "REALLY? YOU'LL NEED TO GET HER A MEDICAL EXAMINATION AND IDENTIFICATION PAPERS. HERE'S HOW YOU CAN GO ABOUT IT..."

HOW DOES YOUR NIGH-OMNISCIENT OXFORD FRIEND KNOW ABOUT ALL THIS CLOAK-AND-DAGGER STUFF?

HONESTLY RAZ, THERE'S A LOT ABOUT TABITHA I DON'T UNDERSTAND. BUT SHE HASN'T STEERED ME WRONG YET.

OXFORD? OXFORD IN ENGLAND? YOU'RE IN, WHAT WOULD IT BE CALLED... ***TELEPHONIC*** CONTACT WITH ***ENGLAND***?

THAT MUST COST KING'S RANSOM! I CAN'T REASONABLY ASK...

IT ACTUALLY COSTS ALMOST NOTHING.

GETTING YOU SET UP AS SOMETHING OTHER THAN AN ILLEGAL ALIEN IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY UNITED STATES, HOWEVER, WILL NOT BE CHEAP.

SO... ***STAN***, WERE YOU THINKING THAT FAR AHEAD?

HEY LOOK, THE METADIMENSIONAL PHYSICS INVOLVED IN UNDOING HOFFMAN'S WORK ARE REALLY ***DEMANDING***, OKAY?

I MIGHT HAVE OVERLOOKED A FEW PRACTICAL DETAILS...

OKAY, FINE. SO APPARENTLY A PIECE OF THE TAGLIACOZZO FAMILY FORTUNE WILL BE DEVOTED TO THIS PARTICULAR PHILANTHROPIC PROJECT.

BUT AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE I MIGHT NEED A RETURN FAVOR. YOU GOT THAT, EINSTEIN?

YES, OF COURSE. I GET IT. I OWE YOU ON THIS, CHIARA. BIG TIME.

EXCUSE ME BUT... WHO IS EINSTEIN?

Facciamo esaminare Millie da una dottoressa comprensiva, spiegando che Millie è stata "educata in casa da fanatici religiosi anti-vaccinazione". Riceve tutte le vaccinazioni necessarie.

WE GET MILLIE EXAMINED BY A SYMPATHETIC WOMAN DOCTOR, EXPLAINING THAT MILLIE WAS "HOMESCHOOLED BY ANTI-VACCINATION RELIGIOUS FANATICS." SHE GETS ALL THE NECESSARY VACCINATIONS.

Il contatto di Tabitha in Diesel City viene fornito di un certificato di nascita plausibile, una tessera di Previdenza Sociale e un passaporto. Come previsto, tutto ciò costa una piccola fortuna.

Lucy riesce a trovare abbigliamenti in cui Millie possa sentirsi a proprio agio.

LUCY MANAGES TO COME UP WITH A WARDROBE IN WHICH MILLIE MIGHT FEEL COMFORTABLE.

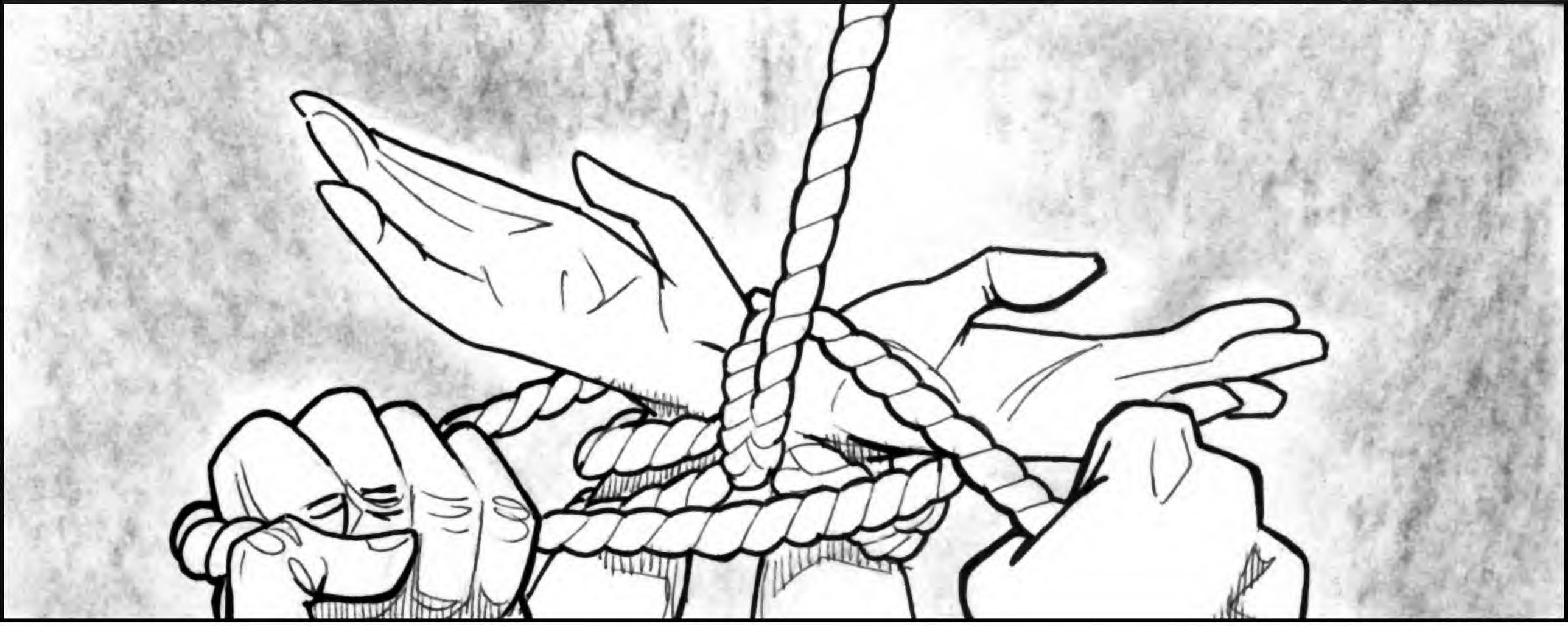
TABITHA'S CONTACT IN DIESEL CITY COMES UP WITH A PLAUSIBLE BIRTH CERTIFICATE, SOCIAL SECURITY CARD, AND PASSPORT. AS PREDICTED, ALL THIS DOES COST A SMALL FORTUNE.

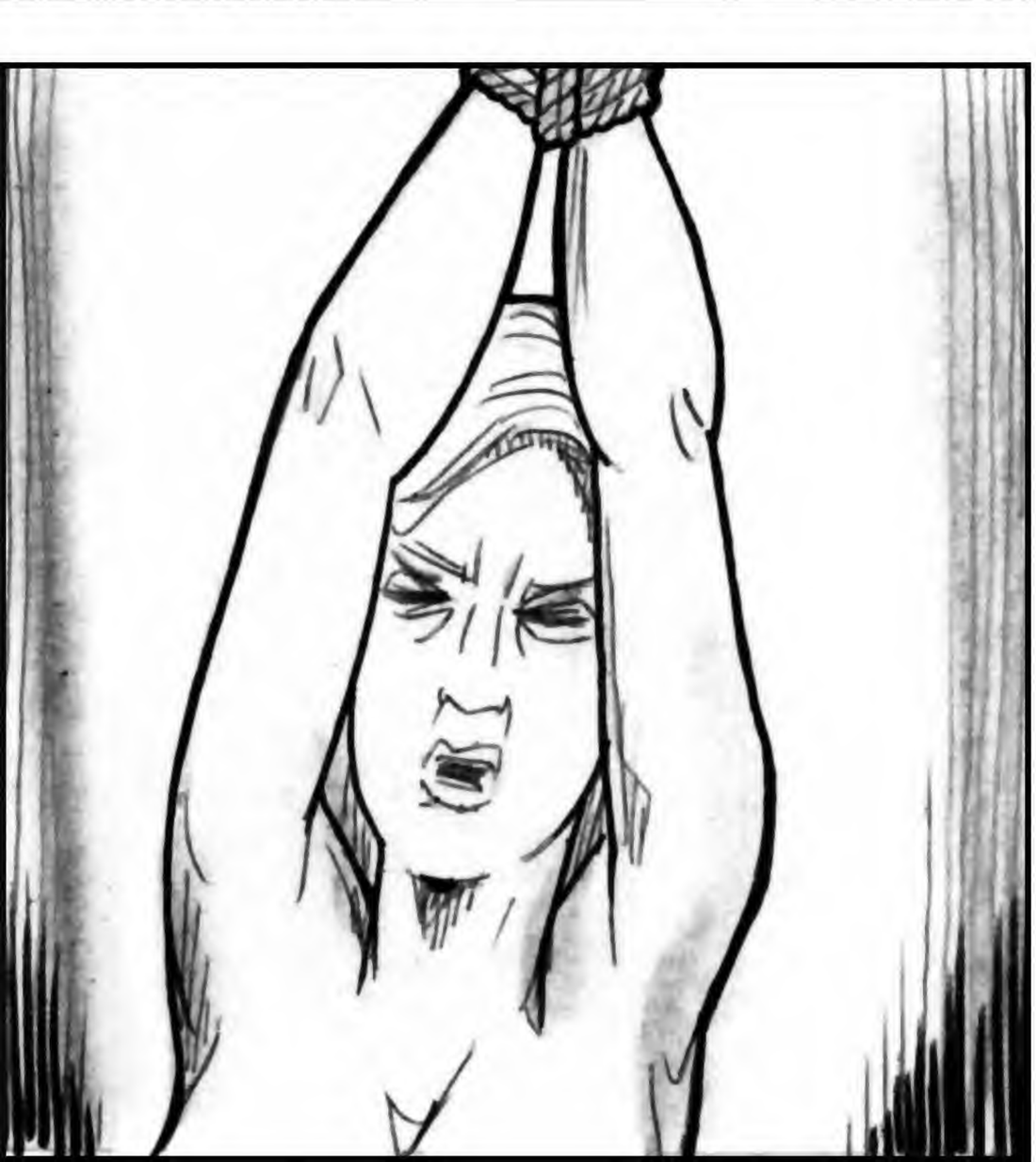
Lucy voleva invitare Millie a una delle sue "riprese", ma l'ho convinta che non sarebbe stata una buona idea fino a quando Millie non si fosse adattata meglio alle norme del ventunesimo secolo.

LUCY WANTED TO INVITE MILLIE TO ONE OF HER "MOVIE SHOOTS" BUT I CONVINCED HER THAT WOULDN'T BE SUCH A GREAT IDEA UNTIL MILLIE WAS BETTER ADAPTED TO TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY NORMS.

OKAY, PEOPLE, LET'S SHOOT THIS SLAVE-MARKET SCENE.

CLAP! CLAP! CLAP!





HONORED GUESTS!
OUR NEXT LOT CONSISTS OF A FAIR MAIDEN TAKEN FROM THE SHORES OF THE KINGDOM OF RECTITUDIA. THOUGH DEMURE AND INNOCENT OF APPEARANCE, I AM RELIABLY INFORMED THAT SHE MAY CALL ABOUT ALL THE ARTS OF LILITH WHEN REQUIRED TO. SHE WAS TAKEN WITH AN INTACT MALE COMPANION WHO MIGHT, WITH SUFFICIENT DISCIPLINE, BE USEFUL IN SOME MENIAL OCCUPATION. AVAILABLE TOGETHER OR SEPARATELY, MAY I SUGGEST OPENING THE BIDDING AT 100 ECUS?

IN THE NAME OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING, WE WISH TO PREEMPT THE BIDDING AND MAKE YOU AN OFFER (WHICH OF COURSE YOU CANNOT REFUSE) OF 500 ECUS FOR THE PAIR.

BUT M'LORD, WEREN'T OUR INSTRUCTION ONLY TO ACQUIRE GIRLS FOR THE KING?

TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT THAT BOY'S MANLY EQUIPMENT.

WITH EVEN THE WHIFF OF THE FEMALE ON THE BREEZE HE IS HARD AS GRANITE.

HE IS IDEALLY SUITED FOR MY PLANS!

YOU WISH TO HAVE A MAN FUCK YOU?

NO, YOU FOOL! A DIFFERENT PLAN!

A MOST MAGNANIMOUS OFFER, LORD CHANCELLOR. I SHOULD LET YOU KNOW THAT WE HAVE A SPECIAL OFFER: BUY A THIRD SLAVE, AND GET A PAIR OF MANACLES AND A WHIP FOR FREE.

HMM. WHAT WOULD YOU RECOMMEND?

WE DO HAVE A BOY SLAVE WITH A MOST EXQUISITE SOPRANO VOICE... THOUGH YOU'LL NEED TO CASTRATE* HIM SOON AS HE IS REACHING THAT ***SPECIAL*** AGE...

EXCELLENT! I'LL TAKE HIM...

*FUN HISTORY FACT! IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE IT WAS A KNOWN PRACTICE TO CASTRATE PROMISING BOY SOPRANOS BEFORE THEIR REACHING PUBERTY TO PRODUCE A CLASS OF SINGERS CALLED *CASTRATI*, WHO COMBINED THE PURITY OF TONE OF BOYS WITH THE VOCAL POWER AND AGILITY OF TRAINED ADULT PERFORMERS. THE PRACTICE CAME TO AN END IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY. THE LAST KNOWN LIVING *CASTRATO*, ALESSANDRO MORESCHI, DIED IN 1922.

YOU WANT TO FUCK A BOY?

NO, YOU IDIOT. THE ARCHBISHOP'S BIRTHDAY IS COMING UP, AND WE NEED TO GET HIM A PRESENT.

UM, ARE WE ACTUALLY ALLOWED TO EVEN HAVE A KID ON SET, NADEZHDA?

OH, THAT'S NOT A KID. IT'S WILLIE NEWMAN. HE'S 23 AND HAS SOME KIND OF GLANDULAR CONDITION OR SOMETHING.

...AND HERE, YOUR MAJESTY, IS A GIRL TORN FROM HER NATIVE SHORES OF RECTITUDIA, DEMURE AND INNOCENT IN APPEARANCE BUT...

YES, YES. PUT HER IN THE HAREM WITH ALL THE OTHERS.

DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

NO, MA'AM.

FOR YOU, A SLAVE, TO GAZE ON ME, HOWEVER BRIEFLY, WOULD BE PUNISHED BY FLOGGING.

YES, MA'AM.

FOR YOU TO DISOBEY ANY COMMAND FROM ME, THOUGH, WOULD BE PUNISHED BY BEHEADING.

LIFT YOUR EYES, SLAVE.

I AM THE QUEEN.

FOR ANY OTHER THAN THE KING TO TOUCH ME IS PUNISHED BY ***CRUCIFIXION***.

OKAY, PEOPLE, THAT'S A WRAP FOR TODAY!

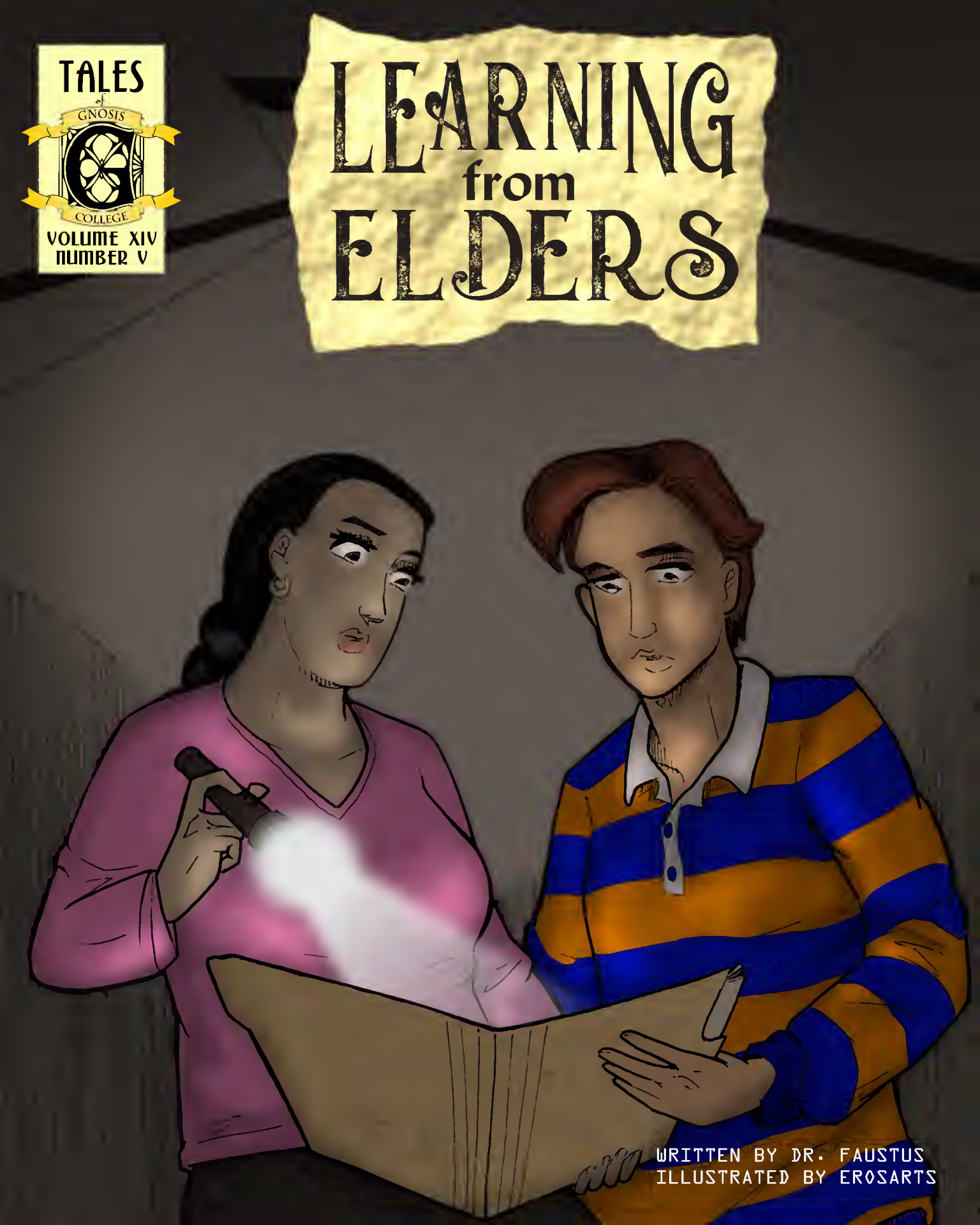
TO BE CONTINUED...

WOMEN of GNOSIS COLLEGE

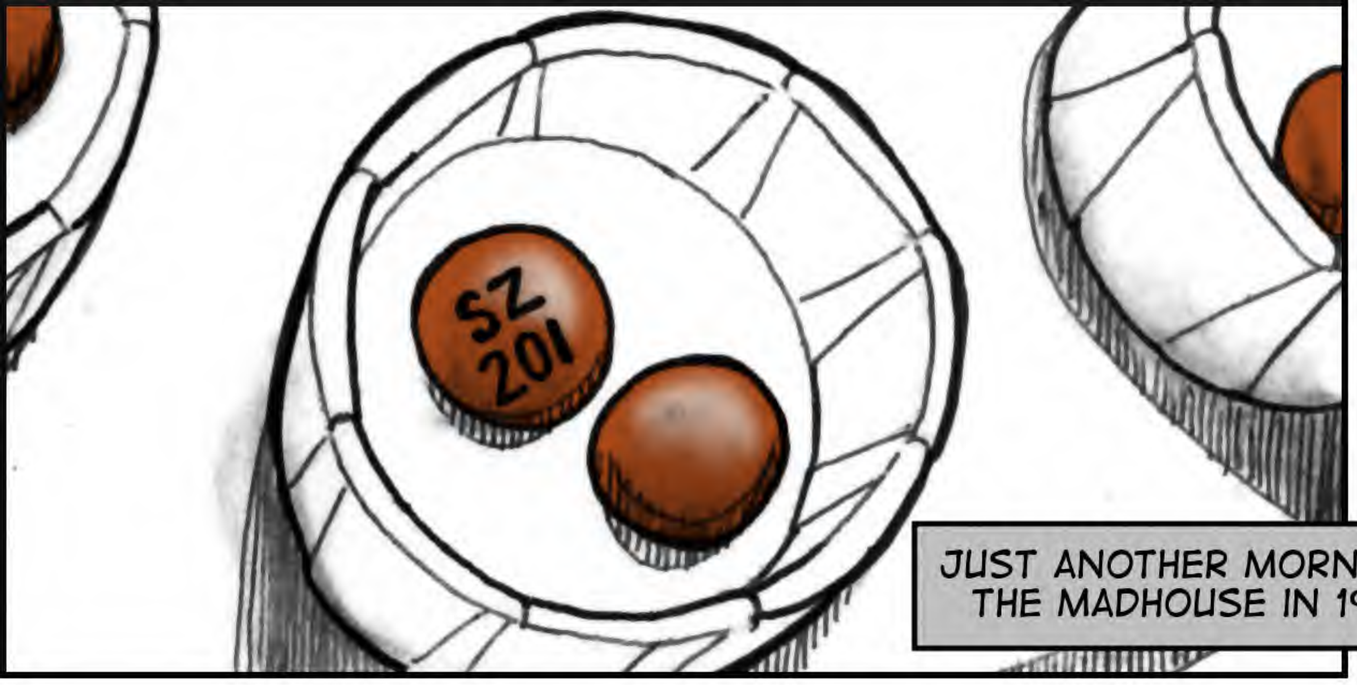
Millie Newman

TALES of GNOSIS COLLEGE
VOLUME XIV
NUMBER V

LEARNING from ELDERS



WRITTEN BY DR. FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY EROSARTS



JUST ANOTHER MORNING IN THE MADHOUSE IN 1969.

"LEARNING FROM ELDERS"
CHAPTER 5

WRITTEN BY: DR. FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY: EROSARTS

CAN YOU TELL ME, BERTHA, WHY SO MANY OF THE CEILINGS IN THIS BEDLAM HAVE SUCH LARGE DUCTS?

THAT WAS THE IDEA OF THE ASYLUM DIRECTOR, MANY A YEAR AGO.

THEY HAD THEMSELVES A LOT OF TROUBLE WITH MISBEHAVING PATIENTS BACK THEN.

IDEA WAS THEY COULD JUST PICK UP TROUBLEMAKERS AND DEPOSIT THEM SOMEWHERE ELSE WITH VACUUM POWER. LIKE THEY WAS MAIL OR SOMETHIN'...

AND THEY SAY THAT WE THE CRAZY ONES...

FASCINATING...

IT NEVER WORKED SO GOOD, SO THEY GAVE UP ON IT, THOUGH.

GOOD MORNING, ENGINEER.

I'M A POOR LITTLE LAMB WHO HAS LOST HER WAY.

DO YOU THINK YOU COULD HELP ME?

LOOK, MISS MOUNTJOY, WE WANT TO ***HELP*** YOU HERE. BUT THAT WON'T BE POSSIBLE UNTIL YOU LET GO OF YOUR DELUSIONS.

HOW LIKELY IS IT THAT YOU ARE REALLY MORE THAN NINETY YEARS OLD?

DOCTOR, I SHOULD WARN YOU THAT YOU MEDDLING WITH FORCES THAT YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND.

WHAT FORCES?

WHRRRRR

WHAT THE...

RRRRRRRRRRRRRR

STATE

RELIABLE TRANSPORT

WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE?

AND WHO ARE YOU?

I'M A POOR LITTLE LAMB WHO HAS LOST HER WAY...

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN HELP ME?

BACK IN THE PRESENT...

MILLIE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

CLEANING?

YOU DON'T NEED TO DO THAT. IT'S ***STAN'S*** TURN TO CLEAN THE KITCHEN ANYWAY.

I JUST...I JUST FEEL LIKE I OUGHT TO BE USEFUL HERE SOMEHOW.

YOU'VE ALL BEEN SO KIND TO ME...

WHY NOT COME OUT WITH ME AND HAVE A LOOK AROUND? YOU MUST BE CURIOUS AS TO HOW GNOSIS COLLEGE HAS CHANGED IN THE LAST 130 YEARS.

WELL, I AM BUT, THERE'S A BIT OF A PROBLEM...

I'VE SORT OF HAD A LOT OF.. EXPOSURE IN THIS TOWN AND THAT MIGHT ATTRACT SOME...

OF COURSE. HOW STUPID OF ME NOT TO HAVE THOUGHT OF THAT.

LUCY IS A THEATER PERSON, AND THEATER PEOPLE KNOW COSTUMING.

OH, THAT'S EXCITING!

BEEP! BOOP! BEEP!

IS THAT... WIRELESS TELEPHONY?

IT IS I, COME TO SAVE THE DAY WITH THE THESPIAN ARTS.

YOU DO REALIZE, LUCY, THAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING HERE TO DEFLECT, NOT ATTRACT, ATTENTION.

HEY, I THINK IT LOOKS CUTE, OKAY?

THEIR CULTURE IS NOT HER COSTUME.

IT SEEMS MORE LIKE GNOSIS COLLEGE, BUT STILL.

I HAVE ANOTHER IDEA, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO CUT YOUR HAIR.

WHATEVER WORKS.

SO I'M GOING TO BE A ***BOY*** NOW, IS THAT IT?

ANYTHING TO THROW THE DOGS OFF THE SCENT.

I THINK I CAN PLAY THE PART.

"CONCEAL ME WHAT I AM, AND BE MY AID FOR SUCH DISGUISE AS HAPLY SHALL BECOME THE FORM OF MY INTENT."

AND AFTER YOUR TOUR, IF YOU STILL WANT TO BE ***USEFUL***...

THERE'S A LITTLE RESEARCH PROJECT I'VE BEEN WORKING ON THAT YOU CAN JOIN ME IN IF YOU WANT.

OVER THERE IS THE MEMORIAL QUAD.

STUDENTS LIVE THERE?

UPPERCLASS STUDENTS, YES.

WHAT'S THE QUAD IN MEMORY OF?

IT WAS INSPIRED BY THE WORK OF KÄTHE KOLLWITZ...

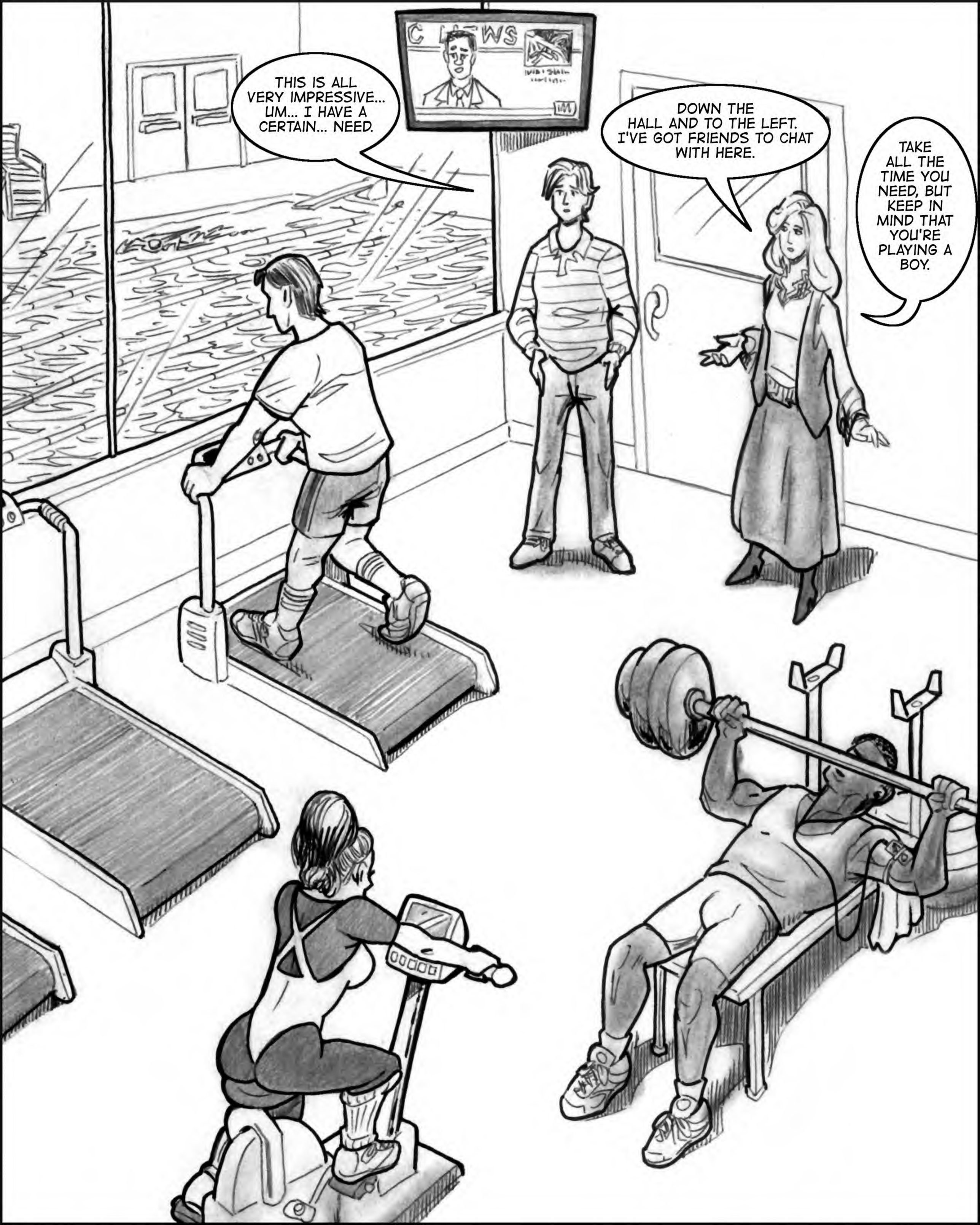
"IN MEMORY OF THE MEN OF GNOSIS COLLEGE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR COUNTRY IN THE GREAT WAR, 1917-1918."

"IN MEMORY OF... SECOND WORLD WAR 1941-1945... KOREAN CONFLICT 1950-1953... VIETNAM CONFLICT 1965-1973... MEN ***AND WOMEN*** WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE SEPTEMBER 11TH CONFLICTS, 2001 TO..."

MILLIE?

THERE WAS A PLAQUE FOR THE CIVIL WAR DEAD ATTACHED TO OLD BRICKS WHEN I FIRST CAME HERE.

I WOULD HAVE HOPED TO SEE FAR FEWER NAMES ON OTHER PLAQUES.


THIS IS ALL VERY IMPRESSIVE... UM... I HAVE A CERTAIN... NEED.
DOWN THE HALL AND TO THE LEFT. I'VE GOT FRIENDS TO CHAT WITH HERE.
TAKE ALL THE TIME YOU NEED, BUT KEEP IN MIND THAT YOU'RE PLAYING A BOY.

GENDER NEUTRAL

I DON'T MIND YOUR TOURISM, COMRADE.

BUT I DON'T ACTUALLY SWING THAT WAY, JUST IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING.

QUITE SORRY, I... I MUST HAVE TAKEN A WRONG TURN.

THIS IS THE GADGET. IT'S A SORT OF STUDENT COFFEEHOUSE. A POPULAR PLACE FOR PEOPLE TO MEET.

THERE'S AN ACTUAL STUDENT ***BAR*** DOWN IN THE BASEMENT, BUT ONLY FOR THOSE WHO ARE OF AGE.

WHY DON'T YOU GET YOURSELF SOMETHING, MILLIE? I'LL PAY.

...I'LL HAVE A DOUBLE-CARMEL ALMOND-MILK MACCHIATO WITH AN EXTRA ESPRESSO SHOT AND SOY WHIP...

OKEY-DOKEY.

YOU DO HAVE ***COFFEE***, YES?

HEY, THAT'S A GOOD ONE!

OH LOOK, EVERYBODY, THE ***PRESIDENT*** IS ON TV.

THE PRESIDENT!

I DON'T...

OH WAIT, I UNDERSTAND.

FIRST THEY HAVE THE ***CLOWN*** ON AS A KIND OF FIRST ACT -- LIKE A SATYR PLAY OR A VAUDEVILLE ACT -- AND THEN THE ***REAL*** PRESIDENT WILL COME ON AND SPEAK TO THE NATION.

THAT'S HOW IT WORKS, RIGHT?

RIGHT?

THIS ALL SMELLS DELICIOUS, RAZ. WHERE'D YOU LEARN TO COOK SO WELL?

DAD PUT HIMSELF THROUGH GRADUATE SCHOOL COOKING IN CHINESE RESTAURANTS, AND HE WAS EAGER TO PASS ALONG HIS SKILLS.

WHAT DO YOU CALL THIS?

MAPO DOFU. BEAN CURD IN A SPICY SAUCE.

HMM.

WE HEAR YOU HAD QUITE A DAY OUT, MILLIE.

THAT'S TRUE.

SO HOW'S THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY TREATING YOU?

MILLIE? ARE YOU OKAY?

GULP! GULP! GULP!

IT WILL CERTAINLY TAKE A LOT OF GETTING USED TO.

BUT THERE ARE AT LEAST ***ASPECTS*** OF IT THAT I THINK I AM GOING TO LEARN TO ENJOY.

SO RAZ, ARE YOU GOING BACK UP TO VISIT YOUR GIRLFRIEND IN DIESEL CITY TOMORROW?

RAZ YOU HAVE A... A PARAMOUR?

A LANGUAGE PRACTICE SPEAKING PARTNER. THOUGH I HAVE TO SAY SHE'S AN AWFUL FUN DATE FOR AN EIGHTY-SIX YEAR-OLD.

WHEREAS I'M JUST A WASHED-UP OLD MAID AT A HUNDRED AND FIFTY TWO.

OH, I WOULDN'T SAY THAT.

YOU SHOULD INVITE HER DOWN HERE, RAZ.

YOU KNOW, I BET SHE'D LIKE THAT.

THE NEXT MORNING.

NOW YOU THINK YOU CAN OPERATE THE KEYBOARD EASILY?

REMINGTON-MODEL TYPEWRITERS HAD PRETTY MUCH THE SAME DESIGN BACK IN THE 1880S.

FUNNY THAT IT SHOULD HAVE STAYED THE SAME FOR SO LONG.

YOU'LL BE LOOKING IN LOCAL NEWS RECORDS FOR SOMETHING -- ANYTHING -- SINCE THE 1930S THAT MIGHT BE A CLUE TO STRANGE GOINGS-ON. SOMETHING THAT HAVING TO DO WITH AN ARTIFACT THAT LURES WOMEN AND MAKES THEM...DISAPPEAR.

I HAVE EVERYTHING SCANNED ON THIS DEVICE, BUT NEED HELP READING THROUGH IT.

tap-tap-tappa-tappa-tap-tap-tap-tappa-ta

I THINK I FOUND SOMETHING.

IT'S FROM 1972.

POLICE

Another pile of women's clothing was found on the south side of the Gnosis college campus last night.

OLICE

In an interview with the *Republican-Sentinel*, Detective George Nagurski of the Pleasant Prairie Police Department, dismissed rumors of an active local sex cult being involved. "We think it is probably just a prank," he said, but added that the investigation continues.

SO...

REMEMBER THAT PAMPHLET YOU HAD ME READ? WHAT MISS MOUNTJOY DID BEFORE ENTERING THE ARTIFACT?

Dragged For Three Years

Guard Dog As Show Of

IT MIGHT BE SORT OF THIN TO GO ON...

EXCEPT THAT I WAS ABLE TO USE SOMETHING CALLED THE "INTERNET" TO FIND OUT THAT THERE IS STILL SOMEONE NAMED "GEORGE NAGURSKI" LIVING RIGHT HERE IN PLEASANT PRAIRIE.

YOU COULD CALL HIM ON YOUR WIRELESS TELEPHONIC MACHINE AND SEE IF HE REMEMBERS ANYTHING...

THAT'S AMAZING WORK, MILLIE!

THE "INTERNET" FASCINATES ME. AN INSTANT GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK! ALL THE KNOWLEDGE OF MANKIND AVAILABLE FOR THE ASKING! YOURS MUST BE AN ERA OF ASTONISHINGLY SOPHISTICATED AND CIVILIZED DISCOURSE...

WELL, AT LEAST IT ***SHOULD*** BE.

RING! RING!

SO HOW DO I LOOK?

EXPLAIN TO ME AGAIN EXACTLY WHY YOU'RE DRESSED LIKE THAT?

STAN AND I WATCHED A "MOVIE" THE OTHER NIGHT. THE ONE WITH THE STATUE OF THE BIRD? I WAS REALLY IMPRESSED BY SAM SPADE.

154

ANYWAY, I THOUGHT AS LONG AS WE WERE GOING TO PLAY DETECTIVE...

I DUNNO, MILLIE. I THINK THE LIFE OF A REAL DETECTIVE MIGHT BE LESS ROMANTIC THAN...

knock, knock!

SO, AFTER ALL THESE YEARS.

SOMEONE HAS FINALLY COME ASKING ABOUT *IT*.

TO BE CONTINUED.

WOMEN of GNOSIS COLLEGE

Lucy Wardlaw

TALES of GNOSIS COLLEGE
VOLUME XIV
NUMBER VI

LEARNING from ELDERS

WRITTEN BY DR. FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY EROSARTS

CAN WE HELP YOU WITH ANYTHING, MR. NAGURSKI?

NO, I'M FINE DOWN HERE, MISS.

GOTCHA!

WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR CASE, DETECTIVE?

IT ISN'T "DETECTIVE," ANYMORE. I'M RETIRED.

"LEARNING FROM ELDERS," CHAPTER 6

WRITTEN BY DR. FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY EROSARTS

IT WAS BACK IN THE EARLY 1970S WHEN I FIRST MADE DETECTIVE. LITTLE PILES OF WOMEN'S CLOTHING AND EFFECTS BEGAN SHOWING UP AROUND THE SOUTH END OF THE GNOSIS COLLEGE CAMPUS?

WE COULDN'T MATCH THE CLOTHES TO ANY MISSING PERSONS REPORTS AND THERE WERE NO CRIMINAL COMPLAINTS, SO AT FIRST WE THOUGHT IT WAS A PRANK.

WE FOUND AN ADVERTISEMENT IN ONE PILE.

SENSUOUS WOMEN

Connect with other sybarites across the space-time continuum. Find out how!

Contact Madam Celestina at P.O. Box 309, Pleasant Prairie [illegible]

Women only please.

THESE HAD BEEN RUNNING IN VARIOUS UNDERGROUND PRESS PUBLICATIONS IN SAN FRANCISCO, NEW YORK, AND SO ON.

IT TURNS OUT THERE ***WAS*** A MADAM CELESTINA. VERY PRETTY. TALKED IN AN ENGLISH ACCENT SHE HAD RENTED A BIG VICTORIAN PAINTED LADY AND WAS PLAYING HOUSE-MOTHER TO A BUNCH OF HIPPIE GIRLS.

SHE WAS VERY GOOD AT PLAYING DUMB AND INNOCENT WHEN I INTERVIEWED HER.

THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF HER BEING INVOLVED IN ANY ***CRIME***, THOUGH.

AND THEN SOMEONE'S IDENTIFICATION SHOWED UP. AND SHE WASN'T JUST SOME RANDOM CUTE HIPPIE CHICK.

HER PARENTS WERE RICH AND HAD A LOT OF INFLUENTIAL FRIENDS AND REGARDED THEIR DAUGHTER AS BEING MOST DEFINITELY MISSING.

THE HEAT WAS ABOUT TO TURN UP.

I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND IF I HAVE ONE OF THESE. MY DOCTOR SAYS I SHOULDN'T, BUT RIGHT NOW I FEEL THE NEED.

A RECORDS REVIEW TURNED UP A FUGITIVE WARRANT ON CELESTINA MOUNTJOY, ALL WE NEEDED FOR AN ARREST AND A SEARCH.

KNOCK! KNOCK!

WARRANT

CRASH!

WE DID THE COP THING AND WENT CHARGING IN.

WHEN WE GOT IN THERE WE FOUND DINNER ON THE TABLE. WE FOUND LAUNDRY IN A MACHINE DOWNSTAIRS, A DRAWN BATH UPSTAIRS. THE HOUSE WAS FULL OF CLOTHES AND PERSONAL EFFECTS FOR PERHAPS A DOZEN YOUNG WOMEN, ALL JUST LEFT OUT.

THE HOUSE WAS LIKE THE DAMN *MARIE CELESTE*. LIKE EVERYONE IN IT JUST VANISHED INTO THIN AIR.

ALSO, MADAM CELESTINA APPEARED TO HAVE LEFT US A NOTE IN SOME FOREIGN LANGUAGE THAT NONE OF US COULD READ.

NONE OF THIS MADE IT INTO THE NEWS, MR. NAGURSKI?

WE ALL ASSUMED THEY JUST GOT WIND OF US SOMEHOW AND SLIPPED OUT THE BACK DOOR MINUTES BEFORE WE SHOWED UP.

BIT DISTURBING THAT NONE OF THE NEIGHBORS ***SAW*** THEM LEAVE, BUT YOU KNOW.

AND THEN THE ***FBI*** STEPPED IN.

AT LEAST, THEY ***SAID*** THEY WERE FROM THE FBI.

"GOOD WORK, LOCALS," THEY TOLD US. "BUT NOW IT'S ***OUR*** CASE."

AND THEY CARTED OFF EVERY LAST PIECE AND SCRAP OF EVIDENCE WE HAD.

YOU KNOW HOW IT IS. SOMETIMES WHEN THE FEDS SHOW UP TO INVESTIGATE A CASE THEY ACTUALLY ARE THERE TO INVESTIGATE IT. AND SOMETIMES THEY'RE THERE TO MAKE SURE IT STAYS ***UNINVESTIGATED***.

I GET IT.

I JUST DON'T...

"GOOD WORK, NAGURSKY," SAID THE CHIEF. "BY THE WAY, DID YOU KNOW YOU'VE BEEN RECOMMENDED FOR A SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING SEMINAR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII? YOUR LEAVE AND EXPENSES PAID, OF COURSE."

"JUST REMEMBER THAT THE HIPPIE-CHICK THING IS NOW THE FBI'S CASE, OKAY?"

I'M NOT QUITE THE DUMB POLACK THEY MADE ME FOR. I SAW THIS COMING.

I MADE MYSELF A FEW CASE SOUVENIRS.

I WENT TO HAWAII. IT WAS PLEASANT. THE "DISAPPEARANCES" STOPPED. BUT THE CASE STILL ATE AT ME FROM TIME TO TIME.

Quadrangle
Prince Hall
Kent Hall
Quadrangle
Rose
Ryden
Leighton Hall
Owen Hall
The Basin
Sculpture Garden
Drake Center for the Arts
Periclea
Faculty Club
President's House
(Parking)
Gnosis College Museum
Payton Fieldhouse
Demi Colosseum
(Parking)
(Parking)
Lowenstein Gymnasium
Buildings and Grounds Department

THE GNOSIS COLLEGE MUSEUM WAS AT THE CENTER OF WHERE WE MADE OUR ORIGINAL CLOTHING FINDS.

IN THE LATE 1980S THERE WAS A SEXUAL ASSAULT AT THE MUSEUM.

MUSEUM

I WAS PART OF THE TEAM INVESTIGATING.

DOWN IN THE BASEMENT THERE'S THIS... MAN. WHO SAW NOTHING, OF COURSE, AND KNEW NOTHING.

I WATCHED HIM FOR SOME TIME. HE NEVER SEEMED TO LEAVE THE PLACE. OR EAT. OR SLEEP.

THE WORST THING, THOUGH, WAS WHEN I SHOOK HANDS WITH HIM.

IT FELT ALL WAXY AND COLD, LIKE A CORPSE IN A CHEAP FUNERAL HOME.

SOMEONE IS KEEPING A SECRET DOWN THERE, AND I DON'T LIKE IT. IT'S UNWHOLESOME, AND I DON'T LIKE IT BURIED UNDER MY NICE WHOLESOME TOWN.

THAT'S WHY I'VE DECIDED TO BREAK SILENCE, EVEN IF IT'S JUST TO YOU KIDS.

YOU'RE NOT WORRIED ABOUT CONSEQUENCES, SIR?

THIS IS MARTHA. SHE AND I WERE MARRIED FIFTY-TWO YEARS. SHE PASSED A LITTLE WHILE AGO.

WE'RE SO SORRY, MR. NAGURSKI.

THE POINT IS, I ONLY HAVE A FEW YEARS LEFT MYSELF. WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO DO TO ME?

THE PROMISE OF ETERNAL LIFE HAS BEEN GIVEN TO US, AND IF I BELIEVE ANYTHING I BELIEVE I SHALL BE SEEING HER AGAIN SOON.

YOU TWO, IN THE MEANTIME, TAKE CARE.

IMAGINE ALL THAT HAPPENING IN ***OUR*** HOUSE.

I'M PLEASED YOU THINK OF IT AS ***OUR*** HOUSE.

I'M THINKING MAYBE RAZ WILL BE ABLE TO READ THAT MYSTERIOUS LETTER. HE'S A LANGUAGES WHIZ AFTER ALL.

WHY? IT WAS NOTHING EXOTIC. JUST ***GREEK***. AN EASY READ. DON'T YOU REMEMBER FROM THE GREEK EXAM YOU TOOK TO GET INTO GNOSIS?

UM...

DO YOU SERIOUSLY MEAN TO TELL ME THAT THERE'S ***NO LONGER*** A MANDATORY GREEK EXAM TO GET INTO GNOSIS?

THE GIST OF IT IS THAT SOMETHING CALLED THE LOVE-GATE -- WHOEVER WROTE THE LETTER USES A GREEK COMPOUND "EROTOPYLON" TO DESCRIBE IT. WOMEN SOMEHOW PASS THROUGH THIS GATE INTO REALMS OF INCOMPARABLE SENSUAL PLEASURE.

THOUGH THE REALMS ARE SUPPOSEDLY SCATTERED THROUGH TIME AND SPACE, THE WOMEN WHO PASS THROUGH THE GATE ARE SOMEHOW IN MENTAL CONTACT WITH EACH OTHER.

THERE'S ALSO A BOAST THAT SOMEDAY SOMEONE WILL DIG UP A DOCUMENT AT POMPEII THAT WILL ASTONISH THE WORLD.

A TRIP TO POMPEII MIGHT BE FUN.

PERHAPS WE CAN STOP BY ON MY NEXT TRIP HOME.

BUT WE SHOULD HURRY BACK. RAZ'S FRIEND MS. ROSENBAUM IS COMING TO VISIT...

COULD YOU TELL ME AGAIN THE NAME OF WHAT WE'RE MAKING, MISS ROSENBAUM?

PLEASE, DARLING, IT'S ***ESTHER***.

THEY'RE CALLED *LATKES*. JUST CRACK THIS EGG IN AND MIX IT UP.

AN ANCIENT FOODSTUFF THAT ENABLED MY PEOPLE TO SURVIVE LIFE IN POLAND.

THANKS TO ESTHER I CAN MAKE THEM JUST LIKE MY MOTHER WOULD HAVE, IF SHE KNEW HOW TO COOK.

YOU'RE FROM ***POLAND***, ESTHER?

I ONLY LIVED THERE A FEW YEARS AS A LITTLE GIRL. I WAS BROUGHT UP BY STEP-PARENTS IN NEWARK.

NEWARK?

PEOPLE LIKE TO RUN IT DOWN, I KNOW. BUT IT IS GREAT IN ITS OWN GRITTY WAY. SARAH VAUGHAN WAS FROM THERE; SHE FIRST RAISED HER VOICE TO HEAVEN AT MOUNT ZION BAPTIST. AND PHILIP ROTH WAS A FEW CLASSES AHEAD OF ME AT WEEQUAHIC HIGH SCHOOL.

HE WAS SOMETHING OF A COMEDIAN BACK THEN.

WELL, HERE'S TO ONE STRANGE AND AMAZING GROUP OF FRIENDS.

I'VE BEEN HEARING ABOUT YOU ALL FROM RAZ FOR MONTHS NOW, BUT I'M OLD AND DON'T REMEMBER THINGS AS WELL AS I USED TO, SO LET ME SEE IF I REMEMBER YOU ALL WELL ENOUGH.

WE HAVE CHIARA, WHO'S CHASING A MYSTERY.

AND I'M GOING TO CATCH IT, TOO!

AND MILLIE, WHO REALLY IS A LADY WITH A PAST.

WELL, I...

STAN, A RISING PHYSICIST WITHOUT WHOM WE WOULD NOT HAVE MILLIE WITH US.

WELL, I GUESS.

AND LUCY, A RISING STAR OF STAGE AND SCREEN.

DID RAZ HAPPEN TO TELL YOU ANYTHING ABOUT JUST WHAT ***KIND*** OF MOVIE I'M NOW INVOLVED IN MAKING?

OH, I KNOW ***EXACTLY*** WHAT KIND OF MOVIE IT IS, DEAR. AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT? I APPROVE.

EIGHTY-PLUS YEARS I'VE LIVED IN THIS COUNTRY, AND EIGHTY-PLUS YEARS I'VE WATCHED IDIOT PRUDES STOMPING ON THE HAPPINESS OF OTHERS.

IT WARMS THIS OLD HEART TO KNOW THAT THERE ARE ALWAYS YOUNG PEOPLE WILLING TO PUNCH BACK AGAINST ALL THAT ***NARISHKEIT***.

AND I ***DO*** HOPE YOU'LL INVITE ME TO THE WORLD PREMIERE WHEN IT HAPPENS.

WELL...

CHE BELLO, THESE ARE DELICIOUS!

AND WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN SHOOTING THIS WEEK, LUCY?

YOU ARE COMMANDED TO DANCE AND AROUSE THE MASCULINE PASSIONS OF HIS MAJESTY! MUSICIANS, BEGIN!

CLAP! CLAP!

THE MUSIC IS SO INTOXICATING...

SURELY I, A VIRTUOUS COUNTRY LASS, WILL NOT LOSE ANY PART OF MY TOO-LOOSE COSTUME.

Di-Cha Di-Cha BUM BUM

Di-Cha Di-Cha BUM BUM

OH, WELL.

STILL SURELY, I, A VIRTUOUS COUNTRY GIRL, WILL NOT LOSE THIS TOO-LOOSE SKIRT.

OH, NO!

AND STILL THE MUSIC POSSESSES ME, AND I CANNOT STOP THE DANCE.

THOUGH I HAVE NO MODESTY LEFT, AS A MORAL COUNTRY GIRL I SHALL SURELY NOT GIVE IN TO THE IMPORTUNING OF THIS ROCK HA... MOST IMPUDENT BOY!

NOT RIGHT HERE ON STAGE!

THOUGH I AM MOST THOROUGHLY RAVISHED, SURELY I WILL NOT...

OH! OH! OH!

YES, YES, WHATEVER.

MODERN ROYALTY

YOU ARE CERTAINLY A NATURAL AT THIS, LUCY.

OH, THANKS!

I FEEL... VERY STRANGE...

AND SO YOU TWO MET EACH OTHER, HOW?

PROFESSOR GURSTEIN IN THE GERMAN DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED ESTHER TO ME AS A CONVERSATION PARTNER IN YIDDISH.

IT CERTAINLY HAS BEEN A PLEASURE TO HAVE THE ATTENTIONS OF A YOUNG CHARMER LIKE RAZ HERE.

MAKES ME FEEL ALMOST SIXTY AGAIN.

YES, BUT, WHAT IS YIDDISH?

IT'S A LANGUAGE LARGELY DERIVED FROM OLD HIGH GERMAN. IT USED TO BE SPOKEN BY MILLIONS OF JEWISH PEOPLE IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE.

THOSE WHO EMIGRATED TO AMERICA BROUGHT THE LANGUAGE WITH THEM.

MY STEP-PARENTS IN NEWARK SPOKE YIDDISH AT HOME. IN THEIR OWN WAY, THEY WERE PROUD OF BEING JEWISH, EVEN IF THEY WERE COMMITTED SOCIALISTS WHO WOULD RARELY SET FOOT IN A SYNAGOGUE.

THEY MADE ME STUDY THE LANGUAGE, LEARN TO READ AND WRITE IT WELL, WHICH I FEAR I DIDN'T LIKE DOING WHEN I AS A LITTLE GIRL.

IT WAS ONLY IN ADULTHOOD THAT I WOULD BE ABLE TO GATHER IN THE EXTRAORDINARY RICHNESS OF YIDDISH LITERATURE, THEATER, EVEN CINEMA.

MOLLY PICON IN *YIDL MITN FIDL* (אידל מיטן פֿידל) 1936.

BY MY OWN MIDLIFE THERE WASN'T MUCH EUROPEAN YIDDISH, AND THE LANGUAGE BEGAN TO FADE IN AMERICA.

PEOPLE FOUND THEY COULDN'T READ THEIR GRANDPARENT S' LETTERS AND DIARIES ANY MORE.

I PICKED UP A LOT OF WORK HELPING WITH TRANS-LATIONS.

ESTHER, I DON'T UNDERSTAND. YOU SAID THERE WERE ***MILLIONS*** OF PEOPLE IN EUROPE WHO SPOKE YIDDISH?

YES, THAT'S RIGHT.

WELL...

WHERE DID THEY ALL GO?

SPLASH!

JUST SIT BACK FOR A MINUTE, BUDDY.

TRY TO CATCH YOUR BREATH.

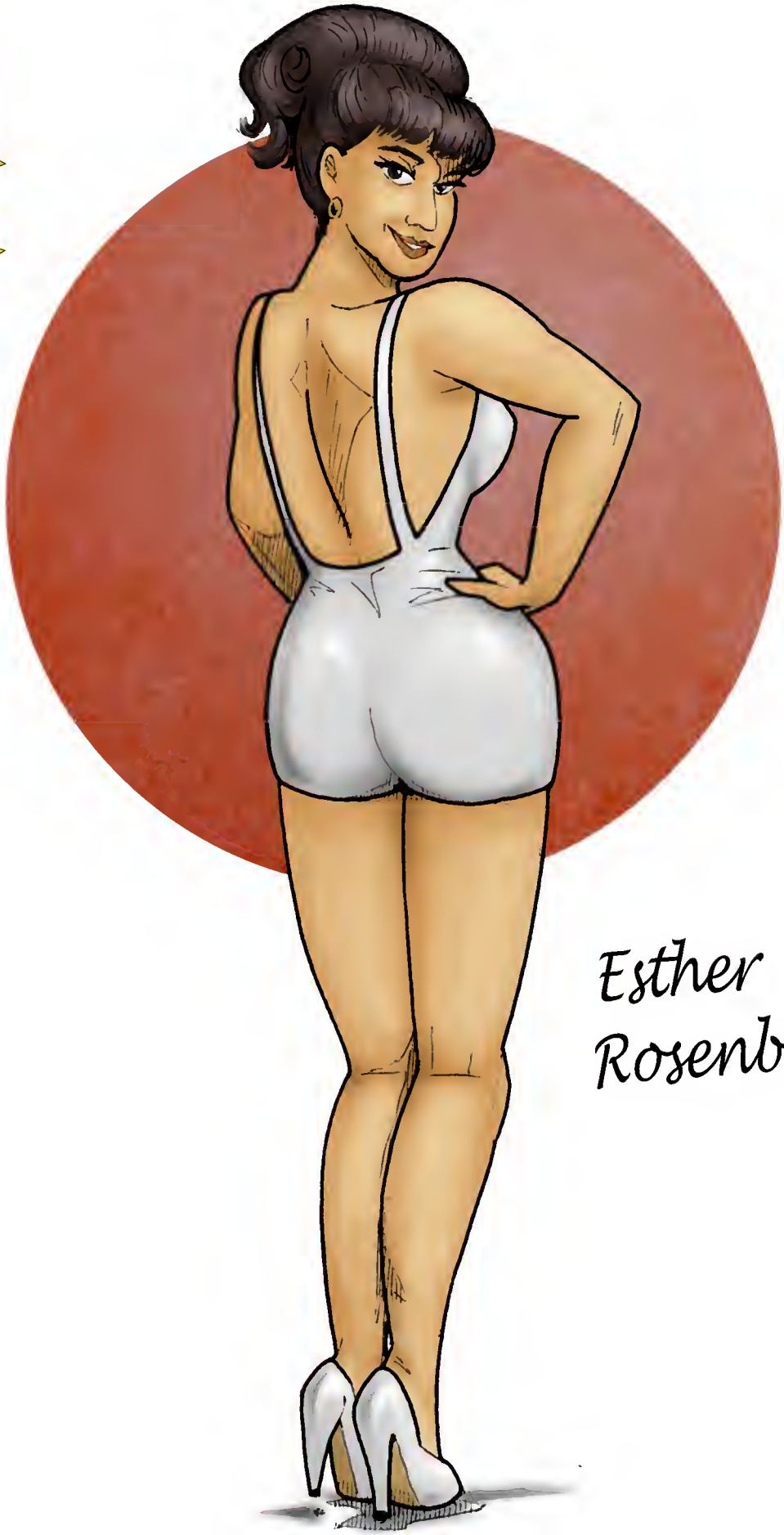
WHAT DID I SAY?

MILLIE, I GUESS WHAT I AM ABOUT TO EXPLAIN IS NOT GOING TO BE EASY FOR SOMEONE WHO HAS NEVER HEARD IT BEFORE TO ACCEPT.

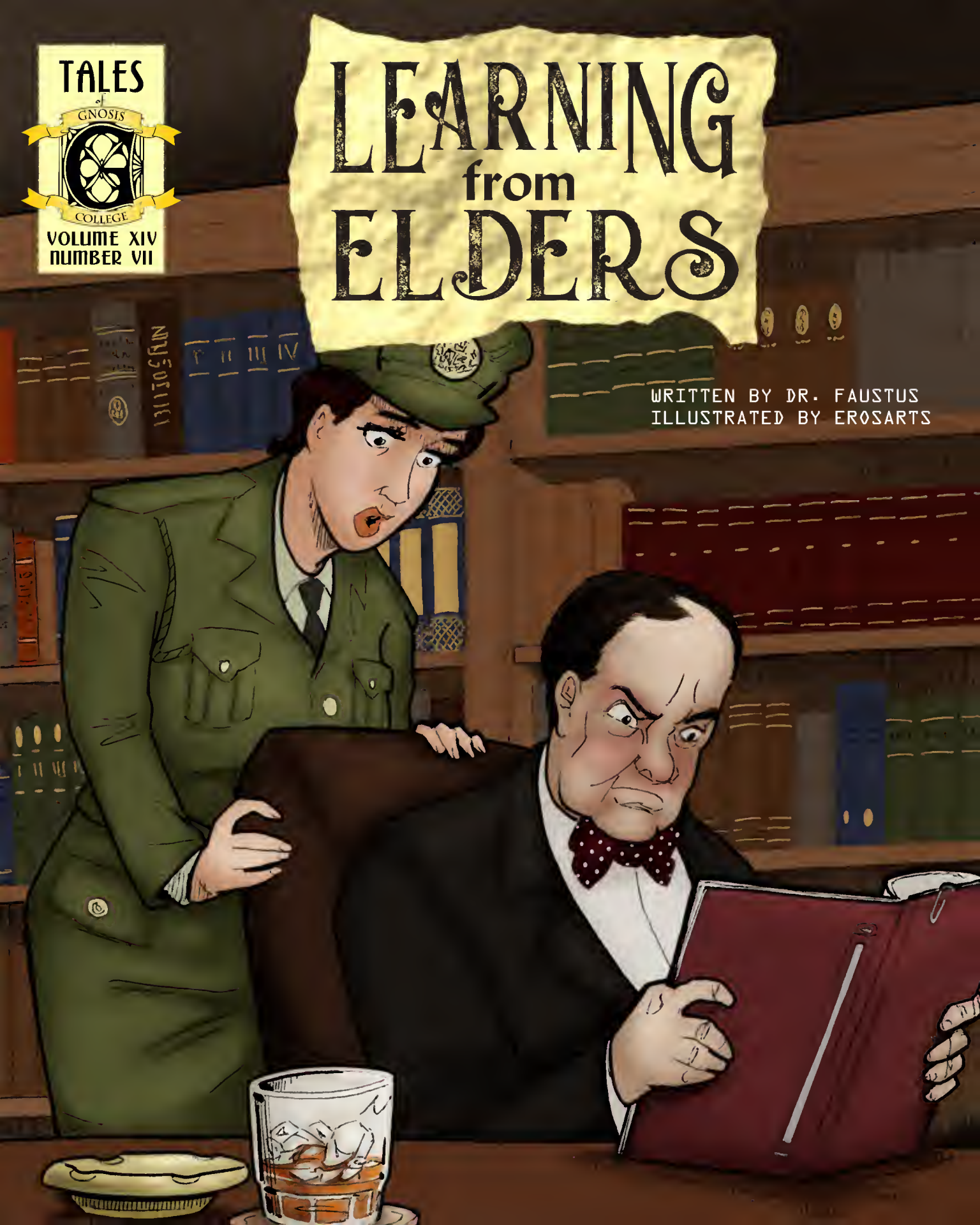
BUT I AM GOING TO DO MY BEST.

TO BE CONTINUED.

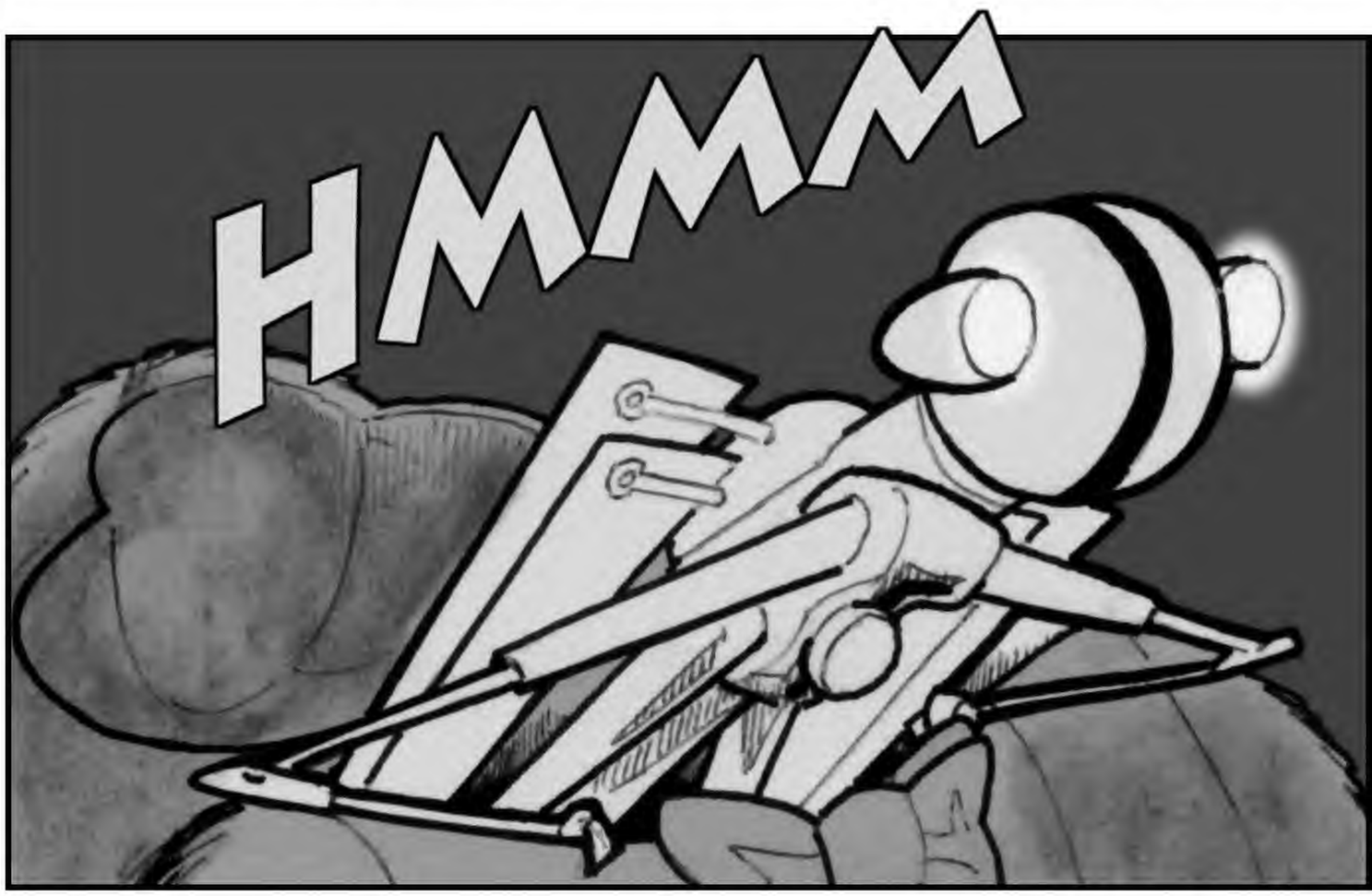
WOMEN of GNOSIS COLLEGE



Esther Rosenbaum


TALES
of
GNOSIS
COLLEGE
VOLUME XIV
NUMBER VII
LEARNING
from
ELDERS
WRITTEN BY DR. FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY EROSARTS

I AM A GIFT FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT
ΔΨ
PULL MY STRI
TO SEE SOMETH
SPECIA


HMMM

ZZZZZZ

GREAT SNORING
NATIONAL ARCHIVE
WAREHOUSE

SMASH!

tinkle

FWEEP!
FWEEP!
FWEEP!

BLEEDIN' RATS AGAIN!

PRINCE ANDREW MAKES DARING PRISON ESCAPE!

THRE
SLAI
SHOOT OUT

OPEN DOOR

MOTION SENSOR

ALARM CLEAR

KERR, M.
05333371

KERR, M.
05333371

FLASH!

FLASH!

I WONDER HOW YOU TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY PEOPLE CAN EVEN SLEEP AT NIGHT.

IF WHAT YOU TELL ME IS TRUE, ESTHER, IT'S AS IF THE WORLD ITSELF WENT INTO THE ABYSS.

TELL ME HOW PEOPLE GO ON WITH SUCH KNOWLEDGE.

I WISH I HAD A GOOD ANSWER FOR YOU.

I CAN REALLY ONLY TELL YOU ABOUT THE ANSWER I WORKED OUT FOR MYSELF.

MY PARENTS -- MY ***NATAL*** PARENTS, NOT MY ADOPTIVE MOTHER AND FATHER IN NEWARK -- SENT ME TO THE UNITED STATES FROM POLAND WITH I WAS THREE YEARS OLD.

I WAS ALL ALONE. I WAS THE ONLY ONE MY PARENTS COULD SEND.

MY FATHER WAS A MATHEMATICIAN. IN THE MIDDLE 1930S, THANKS TO PATRONAGE FROM ALONZO CHURCH, HE HAD AN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP. SO I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO BE BORN IN PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY.

WHEN OUR FAMILY WANT BACK TO POLAND FATHER WORKED FOR THE CRYPTOGRAPHIC BRANCH OF THE POLISH ARMY, BREAKING GERMAN CODES AND READING THEIR MESSAGES. SO HE HAD A BETTER IDEA THAN MOST WHAT WAS COMING FOR POLAND AND ITS JEWS.

CAN YOU BELIEVE, MILLIE, THAT IN THOSE DAYS THE UNITED STATES WOULDN'T EVEN LET MOST JEWISH ***CHILDREN*** IN AS REFUGEES?

BUT UNDER THE LAW I WAS A CITIZEN, SO THEY HAD TO LET ME IN.

RAZ TELLS ME THAT YOUR FATHER SERVED IN THE UNION ARMY AND FOUGHT AT BOTH ANTIETAM AND GETTYSBURG. IS THAT TRUE?

YES.

WHY WOULD HE HAVE GONE ON SERVING AFTER ANTIETAM? WHY DIDN'T HE JUST THROW HIS RIFLE AWAY AND HEAD OUT WEST?

HE WOULD SAY SOMETIMES THAT THERE WAS A HIGHER CAUSE, ESTHER.

YES. AND I AGREE WITH YOUR FATHER. I HOPE YOU CAN TAKE HIS SENTIMENT TO HEART.

THE SACRIFICES MEN LIKE YOUR FATHER MADE CHANGED THE WORLD AND THE LAW OF THE UNITED STATES. I WAS AND AM A CITIZEN IN PART BECAUSE OF WHAT THEY DID.

HAD THEY NOT FOUGHT I WOULD BE ASHES AT TREBLINKA ALONG WITH MY MOTHER AND FATHER AND SISTERS AND BROTHERS.

I WON'T SAY THAT MY LIFE WAS SPARED FOR A REASON BECAUSE, TO BE BLUNT, I DON'T REALLY BELIEVE THAT.

NEITHER DO I ***REALLY*** BELIEVE IN HIGHER PURPOSES.

BUT I HAVE FOUND THAT IF I ACT AS IF THERE'S A REASON WHY I'M HERE, I CAN KEEP THE DARKNESS AT BAY. I WAS SAVED FROM INJUSTICE BY CHANCE, AND I'VE SPENT MY LIFE FIGHTING IT BY CHOICE.

PERHAPS MEN LIKE YOUR FATHER KEPT THE DARKNESS AT BAY IN THE SAME WAY, MILLIE.

SO LET ME TELL YOU A BIT ABOUT WHERE ALL THIS HAS TAKEN ME.

SOME HOURS LATER...

WASN'T THAT FRIGHTENING, ESTHER?

IT WAS, BUT I FIGURED THAT IF HITLER'S GOONS DIDN'T GET ME, WHAT DID I REALLY HAVE TO FEAR FROM ALABAMA STATE TROOPERS?

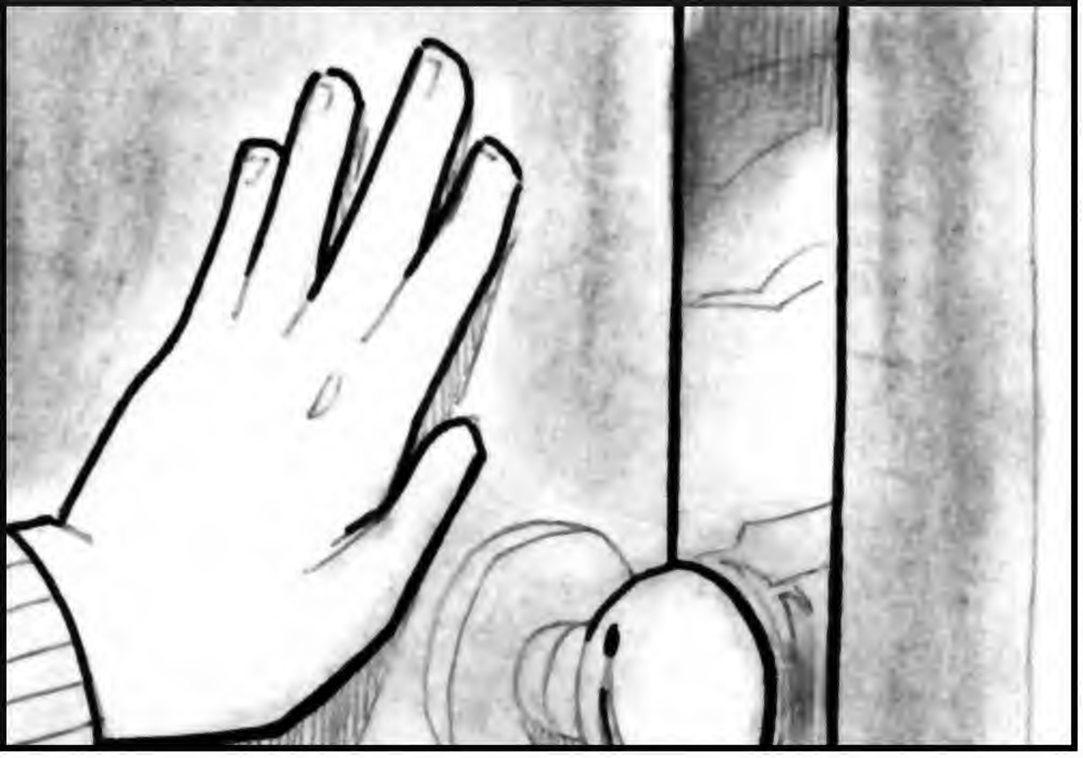
WELL, THIS OLD LADY CAN BARELY KEEP HER EYES OPEN ANY MORE.

BUT THERE IS ONE MORE THING I WANT YOU TO PROMISE ME WITH RESPECT TO THE SECOND LEASE ON LIFE YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN.

WHAT IS THAT?

IF YOU EVER MEET AN ATTRACTIVE PERSON YOU FANCY AND WHO FANCIES YOU, MAN OR WOMAN, DON'T HESITATE TO GO TO BED WITH THEM. TAKE IT FROM ONE WHO SHOULD KNOW, LIFE IN ANY FORM IS FAR TOO SHORT FOR THAT SORT OF *MISHEGAS*.

OH!



FEELING BETTER?

YES. ESTHER HAS A LOT OF WISDOM. I'M SORRY I COULDN'T SEE HER OFF.

SHE HAD TO LEAVE EARLY. SHE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT AN APPOINTMENT WITH A NEW DOCTOR. RAZ IS TAKING HER BACK TO DIESEL CITY.

IN ANY EVENT, I GOT AN INTERESTING BIT OF NEWS FROM MY FRIEND AT OXFORD.

I THINK I HAVE A STORY TO TELL SOME FRIENDS. WANT TO COME?

THAT'S A PRETTY AMAZING STORY, SOMETHING WE SHOULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT. AND AN OLD INJUSTICE THAT MIGHT BE RIGHTED.

ESTHER'S BEEN IMPROVING YOU, I SEE.

YOU MIGHT FIND SOME OF THESE DELTA PSI SISTERS A LITTLE STRANGE.

TRY NOT TO BE TO PUT OUT. THEIR INSATIABLE SCIENTIFIC CURIOSITY MAKES THEM VALUABLE ALLIES.

WELCOME AGAIN, CHIARA. WHO IS YOUR FRIEND?

MILLIE. SHE'S USEFUL AND RELIABLE.

YES, BUT WHO *IS* SHE?

WHY NOT TRY FACIAL RECOGNITION SOFTWARE AND SEE IF ANYTHING COMES BACK?

WELL, I DO LOVE A CHALLENGE.

CH-CHOO

YOU'RE...?

DAMN, GIRL, YOU AND I NEED TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER.

SISTERS IN SCIENCE, THANK YOU FOR TURNING OUT TODAY.

THANKS TO ALYSSA'S ASTUTE ROBOTICS WORK WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PENETRATE A SEALED BRITISH ARCHIVE AND PUT SOME OF THE PIECES TOGETHER.

WORLD WAR II EROTOPYLON ACTIVITIES AT GNOSIS COLLEGE.

BY THE SUMMER OF 1940 THINGS WERE GOING VERY BADLY FOR BRITAIN IN THE WAR.

SIGNIFICANT SEGMENTS OF THE BRITISH ESTABLISHMENT WERE CONSIDERING SEEKING AN ARMISTICE OR OTHER ARRANGEMENT WITH HITLER.

AS THEIR ***CONVENTIONAL*** FORCES HAD BEEN SMASHED, THE BRITISH DECIDED TO GIVE ***UNCONVENTIONAL*** FORCES A TRY.

IN JULY 1940 THEY SET UP A "SPECIAL OPERATIONS EXECUTIVE" TO PERFECT METHODS OF SABOTAGE AND ASSASSINATION AGAINST THE ENEMY.

IN THE DESPERATE SITUATION THEY WERE WILLING TO CONSIDER ***ANYTHING***, MAGIC, OCCULTISM...

AND A CERTAIN PAMPHLET ABOUT A MYSTERIOUS ARTIFACT WRITTEN BY A LONG-DEAD BRITISH OFFICER.

THE POSSIBILITY SUGGESTED THEREIN OF ***TELEPORTATION*** WAS VERY TEMPTING TO THE MINISTRY OF UNGENTLEMANLY WARFARE.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE RELEVANT ANCIENT ARTIFACT HAD BEEN PURCHASED FROM OXFORD IN THE 1930S BY AN AMERICAN PHILANTHROPIST AND DONATED TO GNOSIS COLLEGE.

THE EVENTUAL ENTRY OF THE UNITED STATES INTO THE WAR GOT RID OF THAT PROBLEM.

TO SAY NOTHING OF PROVIDING A DEEP, DEEP WELL OF RESEARCH FUNDS.

IT SOON BECAME EVIDENT THAT WITHOUT A HUMAN SUBJECT, THE EROTOPYLON WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A LOT OF ROCK AND METAL.

MALE VOLUNTEERS DID NOT ACHIEVE THE RIGHT RESULT.

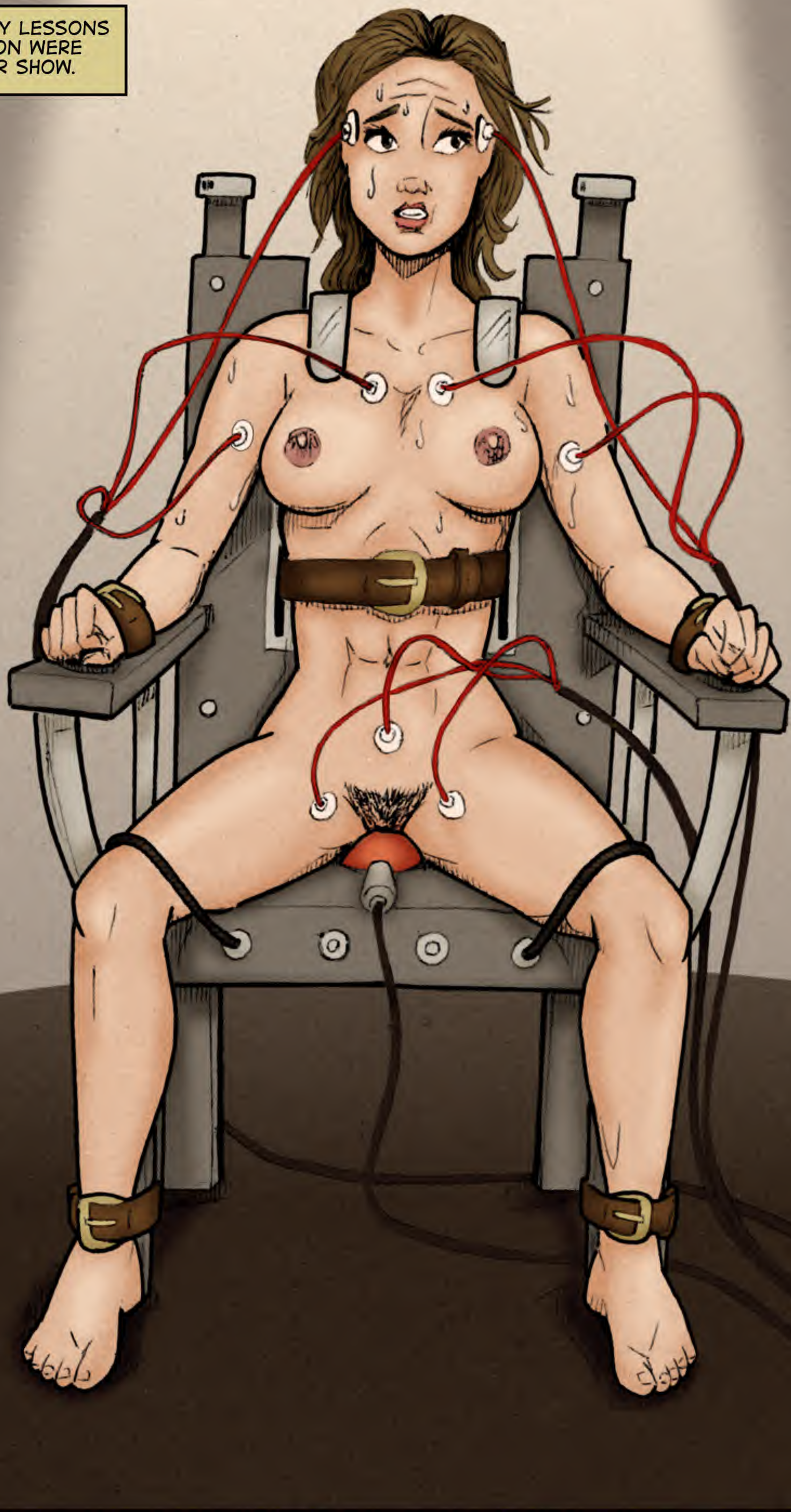
IN 1943, A SMALL UNIT OF WOMEN YOUNG WOMEN NAVAL RESERVISTS WAS SENT FROM BRITAIN TO GNOSIS COLLEGE.

PLEASANT

OFFICIALLY THEY WERE SENT HERE TO LEARN HOW TO USE A NEW NAVIGATION SYSTEM BY GNOSIS COLLEGE PHYSICISTS.

FOR THE MOST PART THIS GROUP WAS SEGREGATED AND UNDER STRICT NO-FRATERNIZATION ORDERS. WE ALL KNOW HOW WELL THOSE THINGS USUALLY WORK.

IN REALITY, ANY LESSONS IN NAVIGATION WERE PURELY FOR SHOW.



THEY GOT THEIR DISAPPEARANCES.

BUT PROBABLY THEY NEVER FIGURED OUT ANYTHING ABOUT HOW THE EROTOPYLON ACTUALLY WORKED.

THE FAMILIES OF THE YOUNG WOMEN WERE TOLD THAT THEY WERE LOST ON A TRANSPORT RE-CROSSING THE ATLANTIC.

POST OFFICE

TELEGRAM

OFFICE STAMP

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD 7 AUG 41

Prefix. Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.

7.55 m 6.30. Lee on Solent 29 m

From WSTOGR. O.H.M.S., P.T. To

Deeply regret to report

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD.

THEY ARE VANISHING US ONE BY ONE AND I AM FRIGHTENED. MARY K.

SOME OF THE YOUNG WOMEN INVOLVED MIGHT HAVE WORKED OUT THEIR FATES.

APPARENTLY WHEN CHURCHILL FINALLY FOUND OUT ABOUT THESE EXPERIMENTS HE BECAME SIMPLY FURIOUS AND ORDERED THEM SHUT DOWN FORTHWITH.

HE AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT WARTIME EXIGENCIES REQUIRED THAT THEY BE KEPT AS SECRET AS POSSIBLE.

THERE IS ALSO A CRYPTIC NOTATION ON ONE FILE ALYSSA'S DROID RETRIEVED: "PMR2XUNBTCD."

"PRIME MINISTER REQUIRED TWICE THE USUAL NUMBER OF BRANDIES TO CALM DOWN."

SIXTEEN? JESUS.

HA HA HA HA

HA HA HA HA

GENTLEWOMEN, ***PLEASE!***

THESE YOUNG WOMEN HAD FAMILIES. FAMILIES WHO ENDURED LIFETIMES OF BEREAVEMENT BECAUSE THEY WERE TOLD THAT THEIR DAUGHTERS, THEIR SISTERS, THEIR BETROTHEDS, WERE DEAD AND GONE.

IF CHIARA AND I ARE RIGHT, THEN THEY'RE NOT DEAD AND GONE. SUCH SURVIVORS AS THERE ARE DESERVE A BETTER ANSWER TO WHERE THEY ARE.

I HAPPEN TO FEEL VERY STRONGLY ABOUT THIS.

YOU'RE RIGHT, MILLIE.

AND THE SISTERHOOD OF DELTA PSI STANDS BEHIND YOU.

TO JUSTICE AND SCIENCE!

QUITE A MEETING! WANT TO DO SOMETHING TO RELAX?

WHAT DID YOU HAVE IN MIND?

LUCY HAS INVITED US TO WATCH SOME FILM PRODUCTION.

THAT SOUNDS... INTERESTING.

IT IS OF COURSE, DEATH TO TOUCH ME.

IT IS ALSO DEATH TO DISOBEY ME.

GO ON TOUCHING ME, SLAVE BOY.

YES, YOUR MAJESTY.

SO YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THAT YOU CAN MAKE PEOPLE LOOK LIKE ANYTHING WITH THIS MACHINE?

WELL NOT REALLY ***ANYTHING*** BUT WE SURE HAVE A LOT OF CREATIVE FREEDOM. TAKE BILL AND FRANK OVER THERE.

YOU CERTAINLY WOULDN'T TAKE BILL FOR RICHARD NIXON OR FRANK FOR G. GORDON LIDDY, WOULD YOU?

WELL, NO, I GUESS YOU CAN'T SAY I WOULD.

WITH THE RIGHT ALGORITHM, WE CAN DO MORPHS. THE ACTORS PROVIDE A HUMAN SENSE OF MOTION AND VOICES.

SO, WITH THIS SEDUCTION MY PLANS SHALL SOON ... ! USING THE QUEE... OBVIOUS LUST FOR HER YOUNG SLAVE TO TAUN... IS OBVIOUS CASE ... IMPOTENCE AND SEXUAL INDIFFERENCE. IN HIS ... LL PROMPTLY MURD... THE QUEEN, UNDERCUTTING THE KINGDOM'S ALL... ... DUCHY OF ELBON... THE PASHA OF SHABOOM, SEEING A RISK OF ... ...ANEN... ...OWER PASSA... WILL FIND THAT HE HAS NO CHOICE BUT T... ...RVENE... ANCIENT HOUSE REPRESENTS. THE WEALT... ...E GRE... THE SERVICE OF THE POOR... ...NS, AN... OF THEIR COASTS AND TH... ...E ... WILL EXCHANGE THE GOL... ...NT... THE BULGARIANS AND ... ...EIR ... VICTORIES OF NICEPHOR... ...CES; AN... ON THE FRONTIER, THEY ... ...ED TO THE DEFEN... OF PEACE, BY THE WELL... ...TACK OF A MORE ... MEDITERRANEAN, FROM ... ...OF ... TANAIS TO ... SUBSEQUENTLY BE... ...ES'ED, BY THE... THEIR CAPITAL IS... ...ND DEXTEROUS... GREECE AND A... ...ULES, AND NUME...

YOU WILL BE FLAYED ALIVE! YOU WILL BE BOILED IN OIL! YOU WILL BE BROKEN ON THE WHEEL!

DON'T YOU ***DARE*** STOP, SLAVE BOY!

OH, OH...

OH!

OF COURSE, NO TECHNOLOGY CAN EVER BRING THE POWER AND HEAT OF ACTORS REALLY ***ACTING***.

HEH.

YES, I CAN SEE THAT.

YOU WILL BE AUDITED!

OH, OH!

MILLIE?

HUH?

MILLIE! WE HAVE A PROBLEM. BRING LUCY ALONG.

RAZ PHONED FROM DIESEL CITY. YOU KNOW THAT HE WAS TAKING ESTHER TO A NEW DOCTOR?

OH NO! SHE'S NOT...

IT MIGHT BE WORSE THAN THAT.

ACCORDING TO RAZ, ESTHER WENT IN TO HER APPOINTMENT, BUT DIDN'T COME OUT.

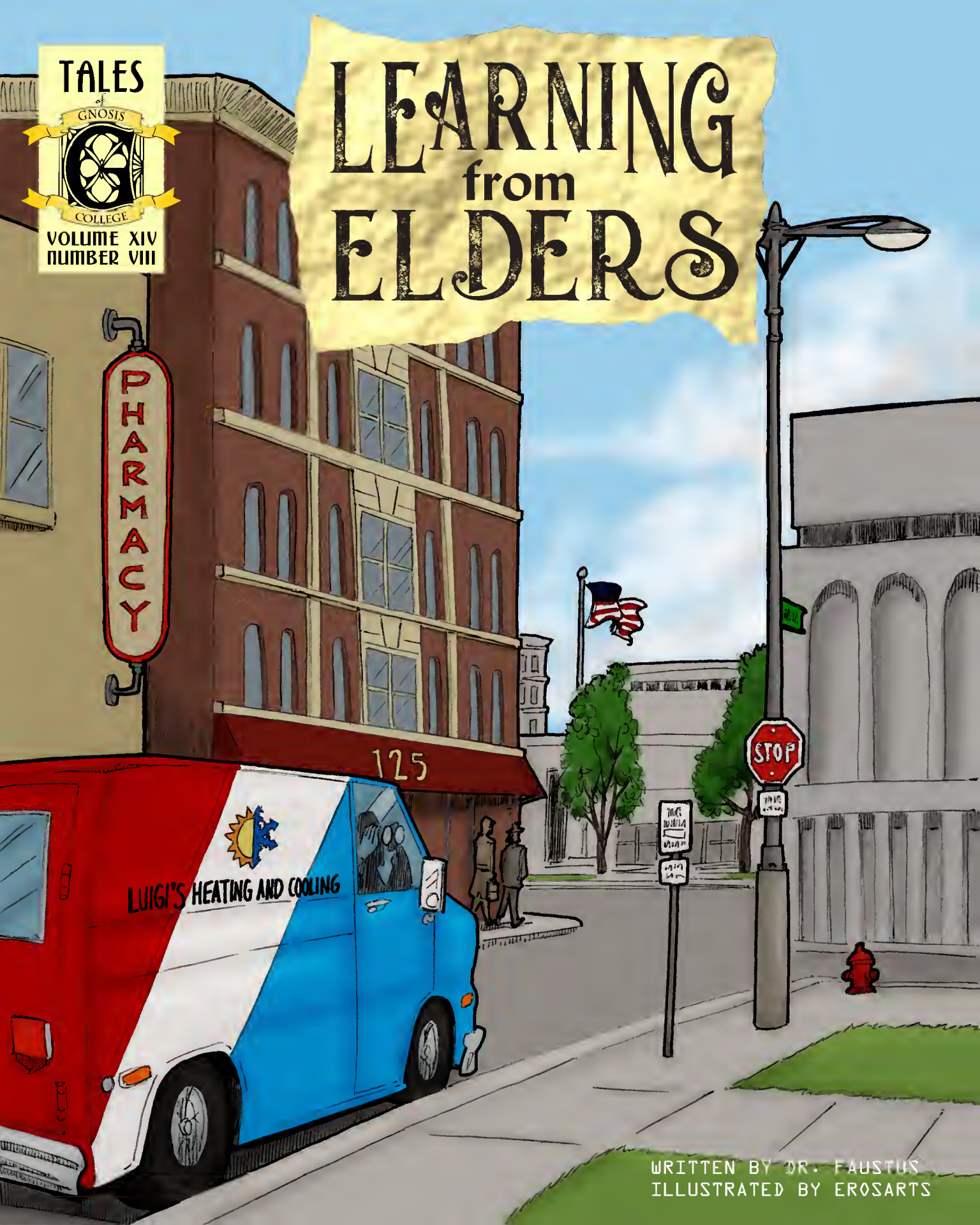
IT'S AS IF SHE VANISHED INTO THIN AIR...

TO BE CONTINUED...

WOMEN of GNOSIS COLLEGE

Marisol Obrador

(aka "the queen")


TALES
of
GNOSIS
COLLEGE
VOLUME XIV
NUMBER VIII
LEARNING
from
ELDERS
PHARMACY
125
LUIGI'S HEATING AND COOLING
STOP
WRITTEN BY DR. FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY EROSARTS

COME IN AND HAVE A SEAT, NUMBER SIX.

THANK YOU, NUMBER TWO.

IF I UNDERSTAND THIS REPORT CORRECTLY, NUMBER SIX, YOU SENT IN A HARVEST TEAM FOR SUBJECT 047 IN ADVANCE PSY-TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

WOULD YOU CARE TO EXPLAIN WHY?

I BELIEVE I CAN, NUMBER TWO.

REPORTS FROM FIELD OPERATIVES INDICATED THAT SUBJECT 047, PREVIOUSLY IN A CONDITION OF CONSIDERABLE SOCIAL ISOLATION, WAS BEGINNING TO ESTABLISH A NEW WEB OF INTERPERSONAL CONNECTIONS.

MAKING FRIENDS AND INFLUENCING PEOPLE? AT HER AGE? HMM, I CAN SEE THAT AS A PROBLEM.

NORMALLY WE WOULD BRUSH THAT OFF. THE CONNECTIONS ARE JUST COLLEGE STUDENTS. BUT ONE OF THEM HAS... TIES.

IT'S A CLOSE CALL, BUT GIVEN HOW IDEAL SUBJECT 047 IS FROM BOTH A GENETIC AND PSYCH-PROFILE PERSPECTIVE, I CAN SEE YOUR WAY AS JUSTIFIED. STILL...

AS YOU CAN SEE WE'RE BUILDING QUITE AN OPERATION HERE, NUMBER SIX. WE WOULD CERTAINLY NOT WANT TO SEE IT JEOPARDIZED.

NO INDEED, NUMBER TWO.

OUTSIDE DIESEL CITY WEST POLICE PRECINCT.

POLICE

JESUS, RAZ, WHAT HAPPENED?

THEY DECIDED TO LET ME GO WITHOUT CHARGES.

THE COPS ARE OTHERWISE FUCKING USELESS.

RAZ!

HERE'S WHAT I REMEMBER HAPPENING...

LUNCH SPECIALS

I HELPED ESTHER CHECK IN AT THIS NEW DOCTOR SHE WAS EAGER TO SEE.

ESTHER WAS CALLED IN.

I WAITED AN HOUR.

THEN TWO HOURS.

HYPOCHONDRIAC ILLUSTRATED

'I'm Depressed...'

Seven Sure Signs of Your Impending Doom

EVENTUALLY, I HAD TO ASK.

EXCUSE ME, MA'AM, BUT IS EVERYTHING ALRIGHT WITH MS. ROSENBAM?

PARMAXOFE

I'M AFRAID YOU MUST BE MISTAKEN, YOUNG MAN. THERE'S NO MS. ROSENBAUM WITH AN APPOINTMENT FOR TODAY.

BUT THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE. I HELPED HER CHECK IN WITH THE OTHER RECEPTIONIST RIGHT HERE TWO HOURS AGO.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THERE IS NO OTHER RECEPTIONIST.

DO YOU KNOW THE EXPRESSION "GASLIGHTED?" BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT I WAS BEGINNING TO FEEL AT THE MOMENT.

YOUNG MAN! YOU CAN'T GO BACK THERE!

ESTHER!

ESTHER!

...OOPS.

5

IF YOU DON'T LEAVE RIGHT NOW, WE WILL HAVE TO CALL THE POLICE.

FINE. ***CALL THE POLICE.*** I'D BE HAPPY TO HAVE THEM SORTING OUT WHAT'S GOING ON HERE.

AND SO THEY DID.

LOOK, KID, I KNOW YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR FRIEND, BUT YOU NEED TO KEEP COOL HERE.

OLDER PEOPLE GET CONFUSED SOMETIMES AND WANDER OFF. WE SEE IT ALL THE TIME. WE'RE SURE MS. ROSENBAUM WILL TURN UP IN A MATTER OF HOURS, BUT WE'LL PUT IN A MISSING PERSONS BULLETIN JUST THE SAME.

IN THE MEANTIME, GO HOME AND TRY TO STAY OUT OF TROUBLE, OKAY?

WANDER OFF? ESTHER WOULDN'T JUST ***WANDER OFF.***

I'VE KNOWN ESTHER FOR ***MONTHS***, AND I'VE NEVER SEEN HER ANYTHING OTHER THAN RAZOR-SHARP.

RAZ, DID ESTHER EVER TALK ABOUT... ANYTHING RELEVANT TO THIS? WHY SHE WANTED SEE A NEW DOCTOR? OR WHY SHE MIGHT WANT TO, I DON'T KNOW, GET SOME SORT OF CHANGE IN HER LIFE?

NO, I CAN'T RECALL HER TALKING ABOUT ANYTHING LIKE THAT. AND OF COURSE I DON'T...

WAIT A MINUTE...

I DON'T KNOW, RAZ. DON'T THESE MODELS HAVE WHOLE-DISK ENCRYPTION?

SURE, BUT WHO DO YOU THINK SET IT UP FOR ESTHER.

I HOPE THAT ESTHER WILL BE ABLE TO FORGIVE THE INTRUSION, IF THIS ALL TURNS OUT TO BE A MISUNDERSTANDING.

I THINK SHE CAN.

I MADE SOME COFFEE, STAN.

WOULD YOU LIKE SOME?

THANKS, MILLIE. THIS IS A WEIRD AND TRICKY HACK.

IT'S SO... NOBLE OF YOU TO STRUGGLE WITH THE COMPUTATIONAL MACHINE SO FAR INTO THE NIGHT FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR FRIENDS...

UH... THANKS.

IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT... FOR ESTHER'S SAKE, OF COURSE...THAT I GIVE THIS EVERYTHING I'VE GOT.

OF COURSE IT IS.

SO I FOUND SOMETHING INTERESTING ON ESTHER'S COMPUTER, NOT THAT I FEEL TERRIBLY GOOD ABOUT READING IT.

WHAT?

IT'S WEIRD. SHE WAS HAVING CHAT SESSIONS WITH SOMEONE WHO TALKED UNDER THE NAME "GENTLEMANCALLER890."

GentlemanCaller890
I hope I am not intruding at this hour.

Estherose77
You are never intruding, silly man.

GentlemanCaller890
I can't sleep but for wondering whether you had a solution to last week's problem.

Estherose77
Ha! Rook to H3.

GentlemanCaller890
Oh, brilliant.

A SURPRISING AMOUNT OF THE CHAT WAS INTELLECTUAL, EVEN THINGS LIKE CHESS PROBLEMS.

BUT GENTLEMANCALLER890 WAS ALSO INTERESTED IN ESTHER'S... ***ROMANTIC*** HISTORY, ABOUT WHICH SHE WAS PRETTY FORTHCOMING.

SHE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN A RATHER... ***FREE SPIRIT*** BACK IN THE DAY.

AND THE RELEVANCE OF THIS IS...?

IT'S AT THE END OF THESE CHAT SESSIONS THAT GENTLMANCALLER890 RECOMMENDED THE MEDICAL PRACTICE WHERE RAZ LAST SAW ESTHER.

FUCK ME.

RAZ, THIS IS NOT YOUR FAULT.

THERE'S SOMETHING MORE.

UNFORTUNATELY.

THE CHAT SITE ESTHER WAS USING WAS A FAKE. IT WAS ONLY ***EMULATING*** A POPULAR CHAT SITE FOR "SENIOR SINGLES."

THE ROUTING OF THE MESSAGES DIDN'T GO TO THAT SITE. INSTEAD, THE PACKETS WERE ROUTED INTO THE DARK WEB.

THE NODES WHERE THEY WERE ROUTED ARE BELIEVED TO BE CLOSE TO OTHERS CONTROLLED BY THE ASMODEAN BROTHERHOOD.

ASMODEAN BROTHERHOOD? WHO ARE THEY?

A RUMORED SOCIETY OF ULTRA-WEALTHY PERVERTS. THERE WAS A REFERENCE TO THEM IN JEFFREY EPSTEIN'S LITTLE BLACK BOOK.

JEFFREY EPSTEIN? YOU MEAN THAT HEDGE-FUND GUY WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE IN PRISON?

YEAH. "SUICIDE."

EVEN IF THAT WERE TRUE, WHY WOULD THESE PEOPLE HAVE AN INTEREST IN ESTHER?

MAYBE THE CHATS GIVE AWAY CLUES? I'M TAKING A CLASS WITH THIS REALLY COOL PSYCH PROFESSOR REBECCA WAITE...MAYBE THE ANALYSIS OF A PROFESSIONAL COULD SHINE SOME LIGHT ON...

EVEN IF WE HAD THAT, HOW MANY ULTRA-RICH PERVERTS COULD WE EVEN GET NEAR?

FUCK ME.

FOR THE SAKE OF THIS POOR GENTLEWOMAN OUT OF TIME, COULD YOU EXPLAIN WHAT YOU MEAN BY THAT?

I COME FROM ONE OF THOSE RARE ITALIAN FAMILIES THAT HAS ***MORE***, RATHER THAN ***LESS*** MONEY THAN IT LETS ON.

EVER SINCE MY GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER GOT THE CLEVER IDEA OF INVESTING THE FAMILY FORTUNE IN AMERICAN ARMS MANUFACTURERS ON THE EVE OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR WE'VE BEEN DOING QUITE WELL FOR OURSELVES ***FINANCIALLY***.

MORALLY, OUR FAMILY LIFE IS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A ***GIALLO*** MOVIE.

THERE IS MY UNCLE LUIGI, FOR EXAMPLE.

HAVING MONEY HAS ALLOWED HIM TO CULTIVATE DEPRAVITIES THAT WOULD MAKE SIGISMONDO MALATESTA* BLUSH.

*A FIFTEENTH-CENTURY *CONDOTIERRO* WHOSE VARIOUS MISDEEDS SO IRRITATED POPE PIUS II THAT HE EARNED FOR HIMSELF THE UNIQUE DISTINCTION OF BEING ***CANONIZED INTO HELL*** IN A FORMAL CEREMONY CONDUCTED BY THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH. THE CHURCH DOES NOT DO THIS ANYMORE, WHICH I THINK IS SAD, BECAUSE FRANKLY WE COULD ALL USE A LITTLE MORE COLORFUL PAGENTRY IN OUR LIVES.

A.·.G.·.D.·.G.·.A.·.D.·.U.·.

58 M

R.·. L.·. Propaganda 2 № 10

Si riceve dal TAGLIACOZZO LUIGI

la somma di Lire 100000 #

(centomila) per

Quota sociale anno 1958 £. 50

Iniziazione £. 50

Passaggio Grado £.

£.

£.

TOTALE £. 10000

li 26 gennaio 1958

Segr. Amm.vo

THERE'S NO VILE ORGANIZATION UNCLE LUIGI WOULDN'T JOIN IF HE HAD THE CHANCE...

WE'VE HAD ENDLESS TROUBLE WITH LUIGI BOTHERING THE SERVANTS.

THERE'S NO ASSOCIATION HE WOULDN'T FORM IF IT WOULD ALLOW HIM TO SEXUALLY EXPLOIT SOMEONE.

AND HE'S BEEN TRYING TO GET INTO MY *MUTADINE** SINCE I WAS THIRTEEN.

*EVEN IF YOU DON'T KNOW ITALIAN, YOU CAN PROBABLY GUESS FROM CONTEXT, AND IF YOU CAN'T, THERE'S ALWAYS WIKTIONARY: HTTPS://EN.WIKTIONARY.ORG .

I THINK I'M GOING TO BE SICK.

HAVEN'T YOU... YOU KNOW... ***AGED OUT*** OF HIS VICE YET?

I'M SURE UNCLE LUIGI HAS HAD, AND STILL HAS, PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES TO INDULGE ANY ***PEDOPHILE*** DESIRES HE MIGHT HAPPEN TO HAVE.

HE JUST DESPERATELY WANTS TO ADD ***INCEST*** TO THE LIST OF HIS LIFE'S CRIMES BEFORE SATAN FINALLY ARRIVES TO DRAG HIM OFF TO HELL.

THERE ARE TWO THINGS. FIRST, IF I KNOW ANYONE ASSOCIATED WITH THE ASMODEAN BROTHERHOOD, IT WOULD BE UNCLE LUIGI.

SECOND...

UNCLE LUIGI THINKS HE CAN HAVE ME WITH A SWEETENED OFFER.

SE SOLO TI LASCIASSI RACCOGLIERE, O GRAZIOSO E DELICATO FIORELLINO, QUALSIASI COSA CHE SONO IN GRADO DI OFFRIRE SAREBBE TUA.*

*IF ONLY YOU WOULD LET ME PLUCK YOU, PRETTY LITTLE FLOWER, ANYTHING IN MY POWER TO GIVE WOULD BE YOURS.

CHIARA! YOU HAVE TO KNOW WE WOULD NEVER ASK YOU TO...

AND WHAT'S MORE, ***ESTHER*** WOULD NEVER ASK YOU TO... NO MATTER WHAT TROUBLE SHE WAS IN!

SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO, RAZ. BUT MAYBE WE CAN STILL GET WHAT WE NEED.

I JUST HAD AN IDEA.

I ALSO JUST HAD AN IDEA.

RAZ, DO YOU THINK WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SHOW THAT TEXT EXCHANGE TO ONE MORE PERSON?

IS IT SOMEONE WE CAN TRUST?

LAB C
Dr. Waite

BEEP!

BZZZZZ

DR. WAITE? I'M LUCY WARDLAW FROM YOUR PSYCH 365 CLASS AND...

SHH!

CRITICAL MOMENT COMING. WATCH THE MONITORS.

EEK!

NO!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING!

DON'T EAT ME!

INTERESTING. SUBJECT APPEARS TO HAVE HAD AN ONEIRIC ORGASM. THE CRITICAL MOMENT CAME AND WITH IT, SO DID THE SUBJECT.

OH, WE'VE BEEN SEEING A LOT MORE OF THOSE EVER SINCE THAT MOVIE ***BAIT*** GOT RELEASED.

REALLY? THAT SEEMED MORE THAN A LITTLE ICKY TO ME.

SO, WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WANTED FROM ME AGAIN?

YES. I SEE. I THINK I COULD FIGURE OUT WHAT IT IS THAT "GENTLMANCALLER980" IS TRYING TO GET OUT OF YOUR "GRANDMOTHER," BUT IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME.

I THINK A FAVOR IN RETURN MIGHT BE REASONABLE.

R.WAITE

SUCH AS?

A LITTLE BIRD NAMED WILLIE NEWMAN HAS TOLD ME THAT YOU AND SOME YOUR FRIENDS ARE INVOLVED IN A MOST... ***INTERESTING*** VIDEO PRODUCTION HERE ON CAMPUS.

DO YOU THINK YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND A LITTLE SPOT IN THERE FOR ME?

OH, PERHAPS THAT MIGHT BE... VERY INTERESTING.

TO BE CONTINUED...

WOMEN of GNOSIS COLLEGE

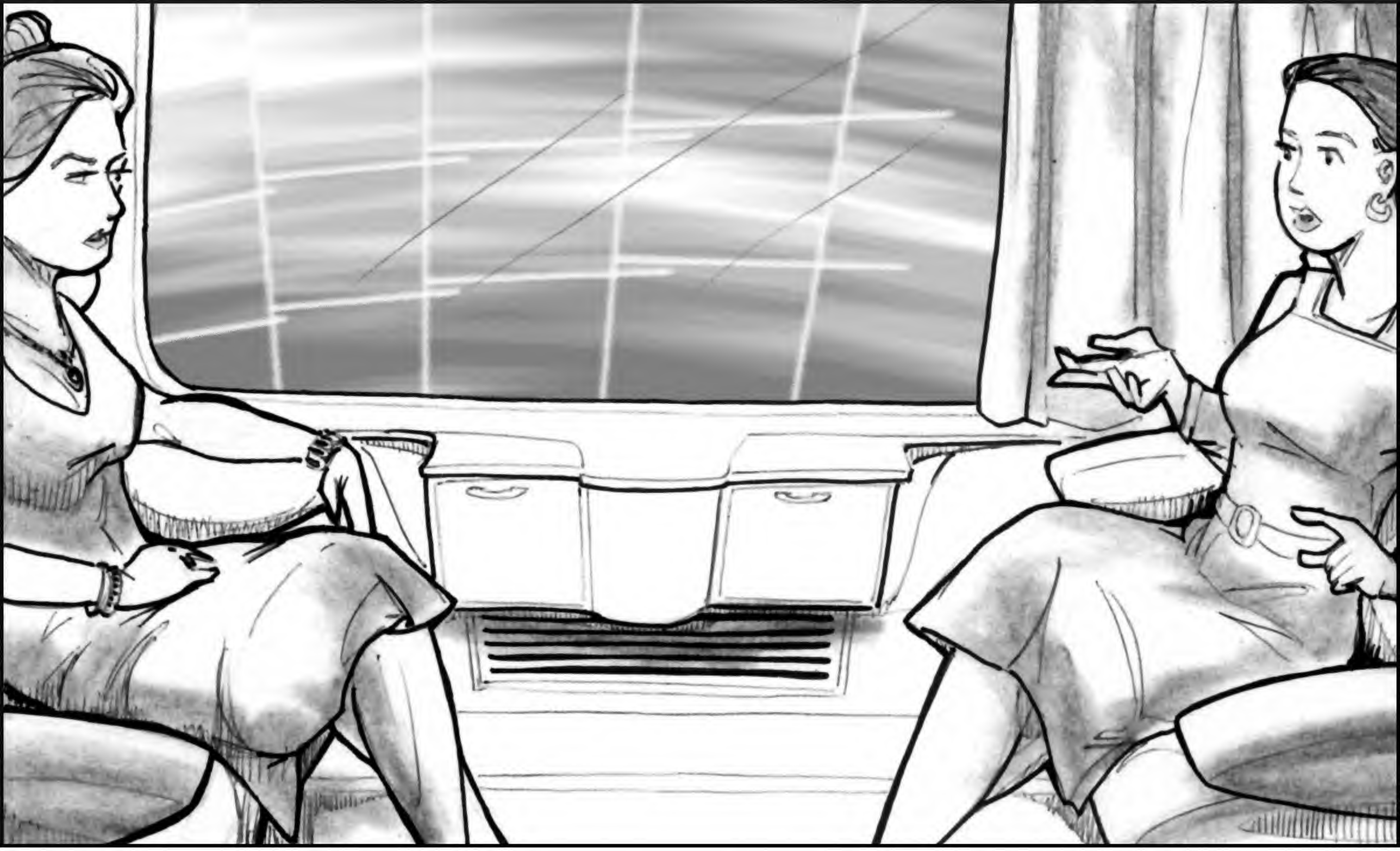
TALES of GNOSIS COLLEGE

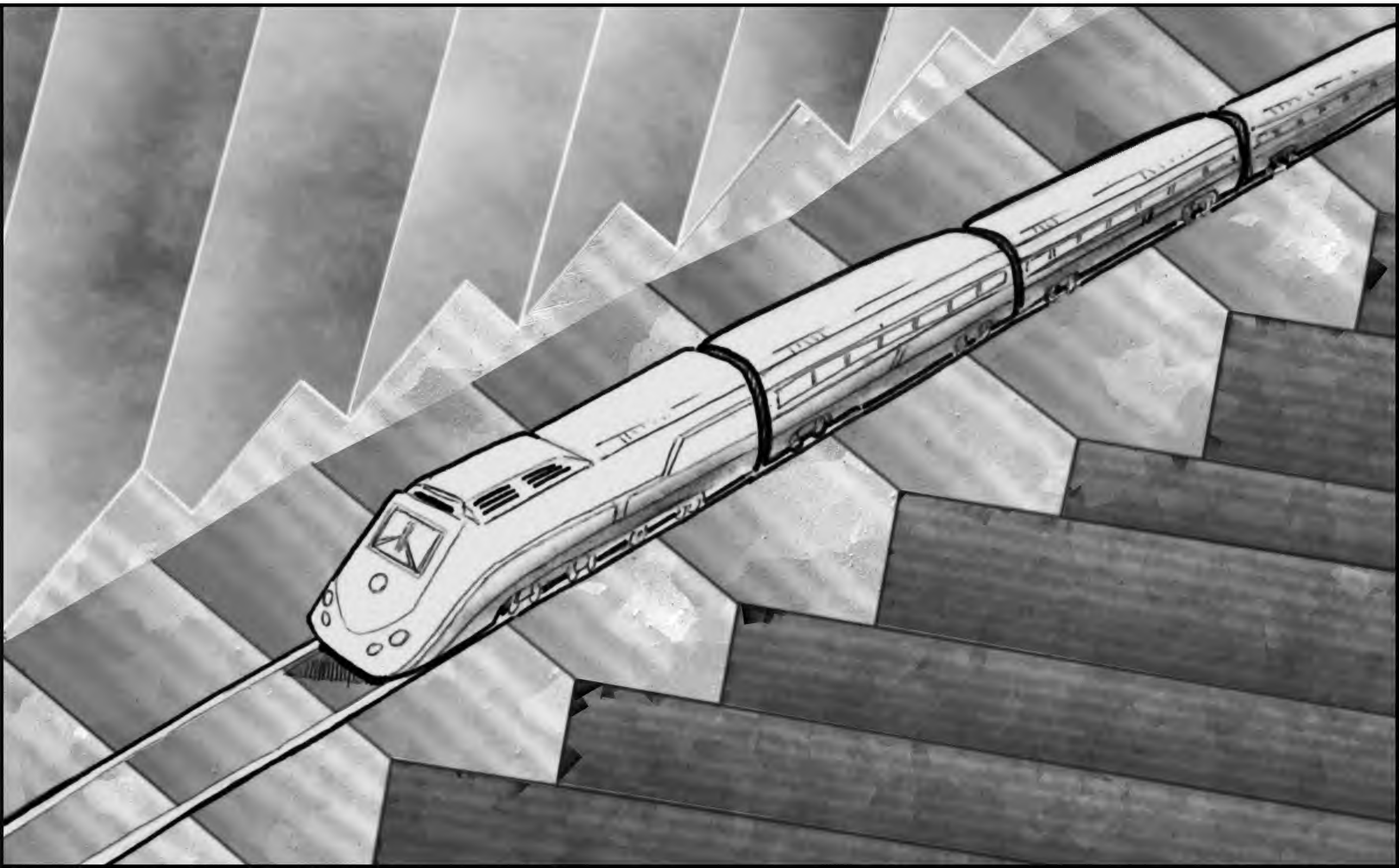
VOLUME XIV
NUMBER IX

LEARNING from ELDERS

WRITTEN BY DR. FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY EROSARTS

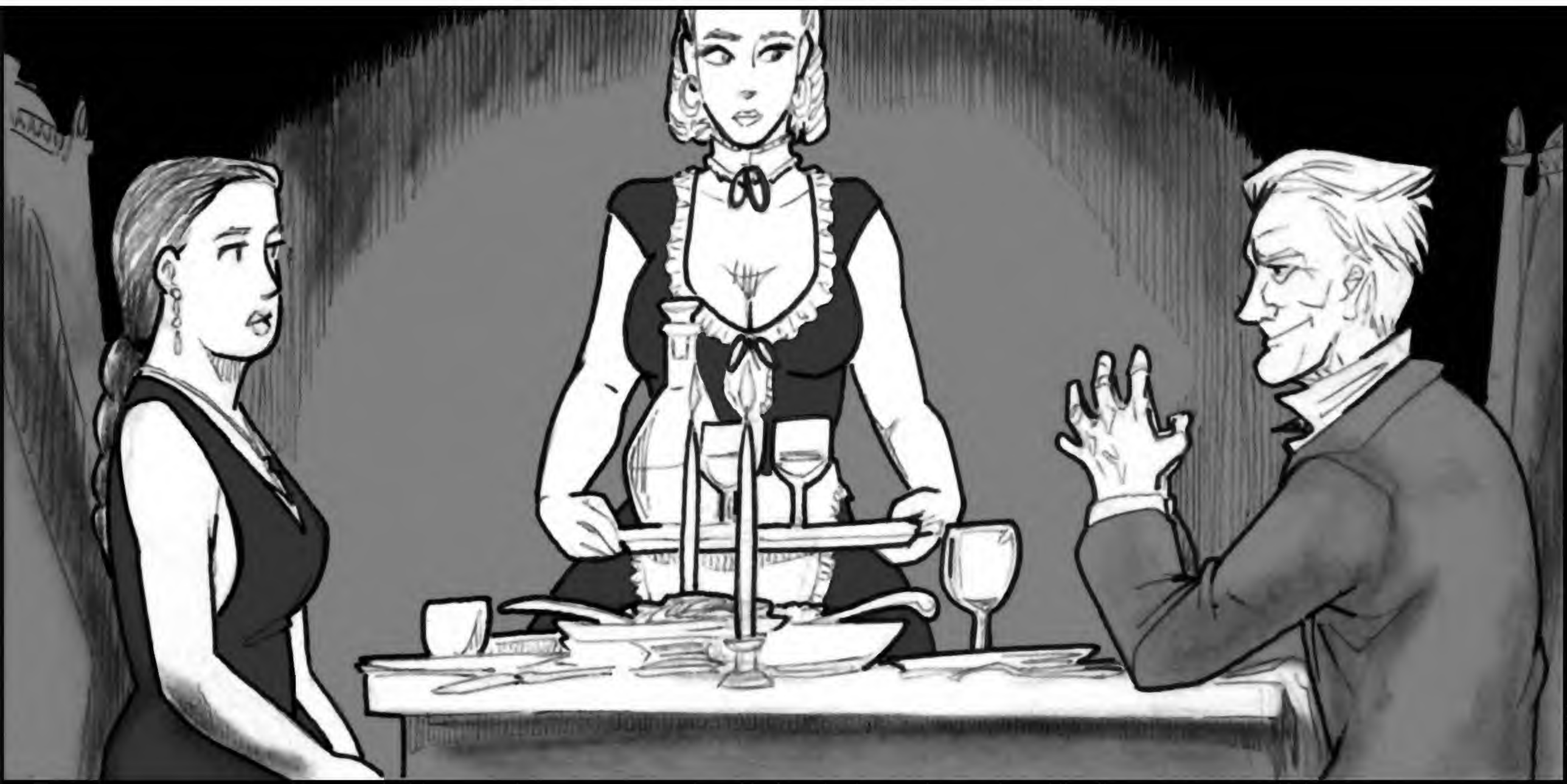
Air Europa

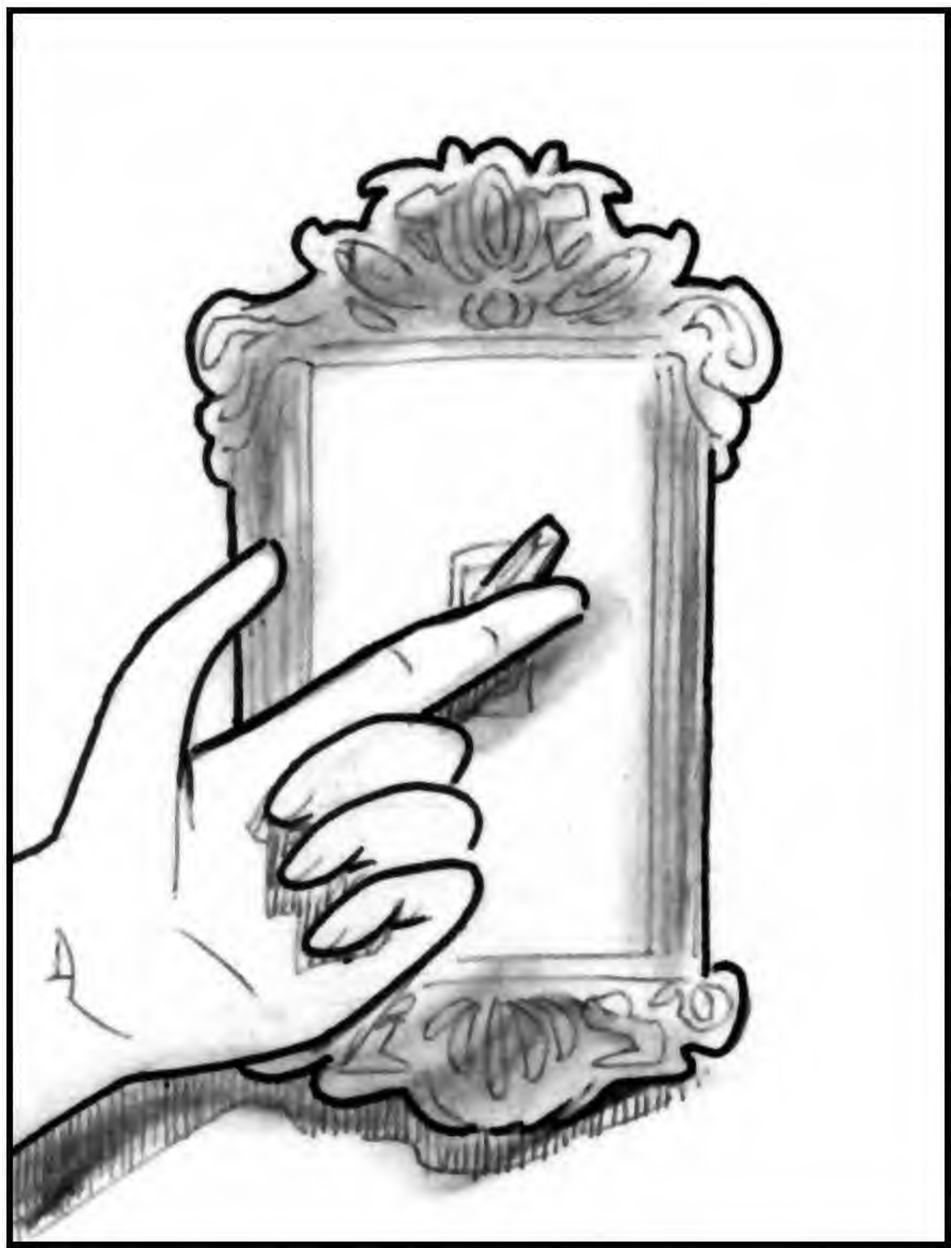


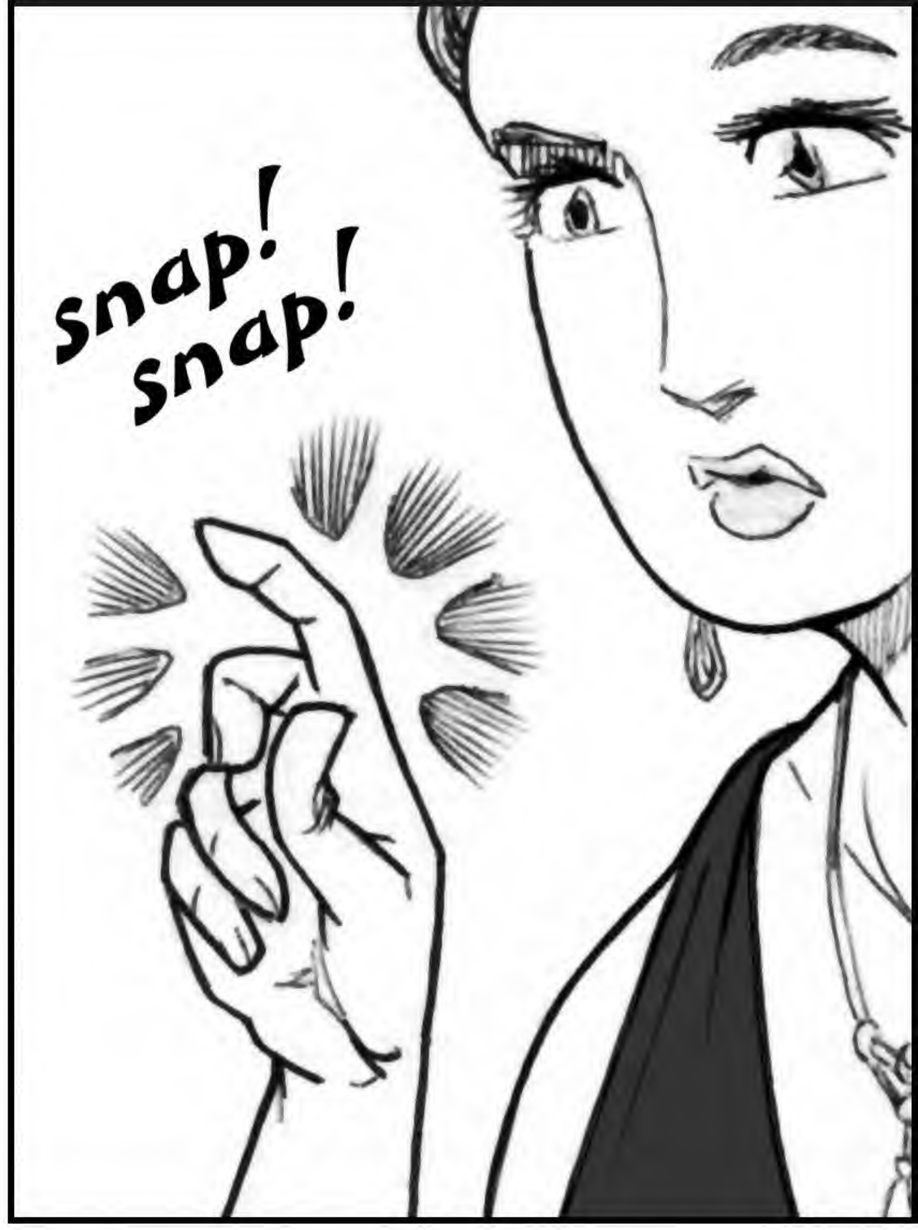


EACI4

ZOO

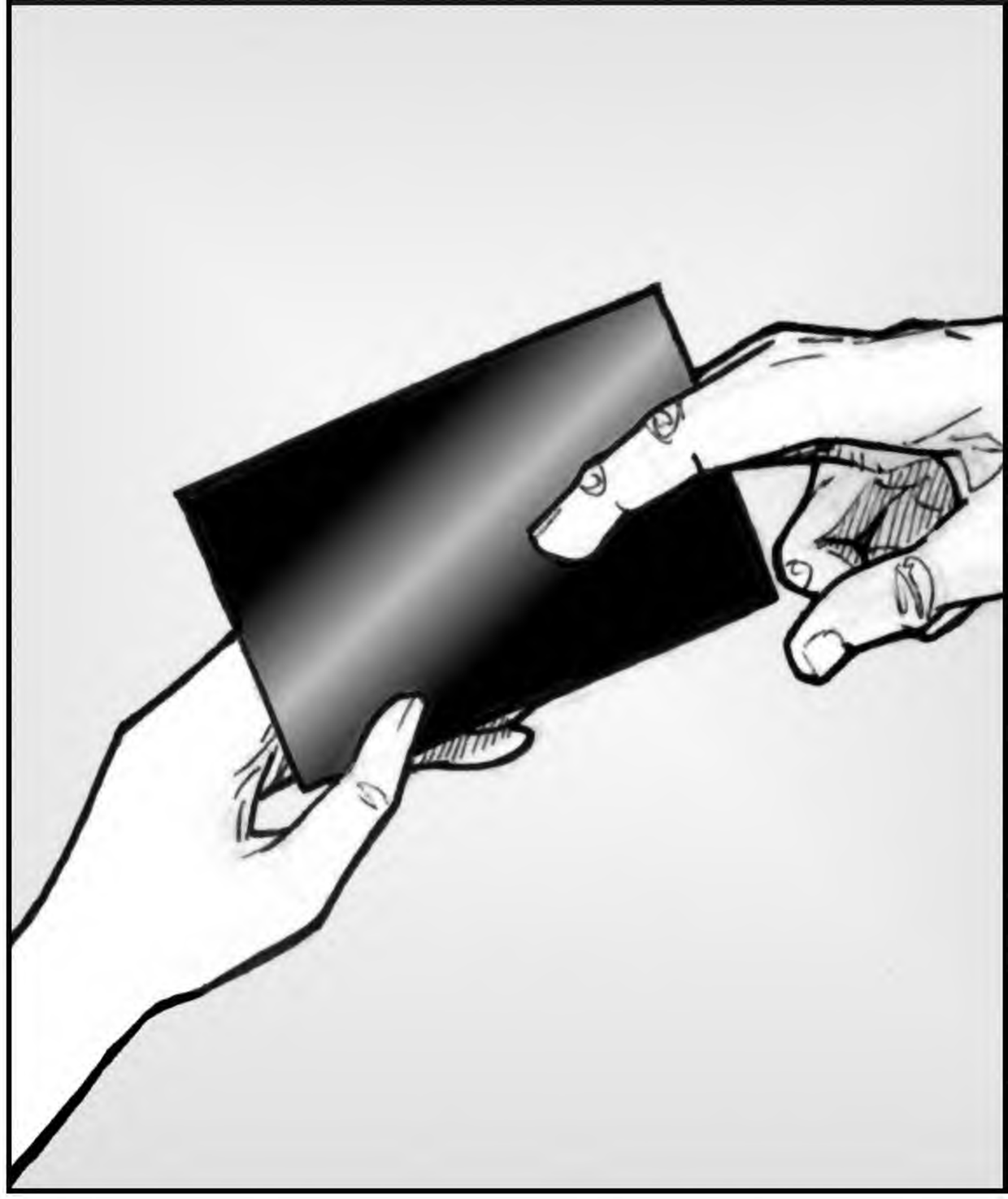





snap!
snap!

SATELLITE TRANSMISSION INCOMING

WHAP!



THAT WAS AMAZING FAST WORK, NADEZHDA.

IT WAS WORTH IT. YOUR FRIEND CHIARA THREW IN A LITTLE FINANCIAL BONUS.

THAT MEANS WE GET TO DO AN "EXTRA" SPECIAL SCENE FOR THE MOVIE.

ALRIGHT, PEOPLE. LET'S MAKE THE WEIRD MENACE FANS HAPPY.

BY THE WAY, THANK YOU FOR JOINING US FOR THIS ONE, PROFESSOR.

MY PLEASURE.

WHO DARES ENTER THE TEMPLE OF THE DARK GODDESS?

WE HAVE AN EVIL PURPOSE, MOST NOBLE UNHOLINESS, AND WISH TO CURRY THE DARK GODDESS'S FAVOR FOR IT.

AS YOU CAN SEE, WE HAVE BROUGHT A MOST APPROPRIATE SACRIFICE.

NO... PLEASE...

VERY WELL. MINIONS, BRING FORTH THE MEANS AND MAKE READY!

<WHIMPER>

I CAN ONLY WONDER AT WHO THE AUDIENCE WAS FOR THESE THINGS.

CAREFUL! THAT OLD ACIDIC PAPER IS *VERY* FRAGILE.

"I killed that Cop!"

TERROR TALES

MYSTERY NOVELS

AND SO HOW WAS IT FOR YOU, GRETA?

IT WAS... *CATHARTIC*, PROFESSOR WAITE. THANK YOU.

ACTING AND SEX WORK, MY DEARS, ARE THE MOST ***COMPLEMENTARY*** OF PROFESSIONS.

I DID A LITTLE MOVIE ACTING BEFORE I CAME HERE, BUT WAS TERRIBLE AT IT. I WAS SO ***FORTUNATE*** TO HAVE NIKOLAI PAVLOVICH TAKE ME UNDER HIS WING AND TEACH ME TO ACT WHEN I JUST... POPPED IN TO ITALY SOME YEARS BACK.

YOU COULD BENEFIT IMMENSELY FROM A FEW OF HIS TUTORIALS, MR. CHEN.

HOW SO, MS. SETA?

YOU ARE PLANNING AN INFILTRATION OF THE ASMODEANS PRETENDING TO BE PRINCE EUGEN ZU FAULHEIT?

WELL, I LOOK LIKE HIM AND HE'S IN A PRIVATE INSANE ASYLUM IN SWITZERLAND, SO...

LET US SEE YOU WALK ACROSS THE ROOM.

OKAY. I DON'T REALLY SEE THE POINT HERE, BUT I'M WALKING ACROSS THE ROOM...

NO!

YOU ARE WALKING ***WRONG!***

YOU WALK LIKE A WELL BROUGHT-UP CITIZEN OF A DEMOCRACY. ONE WHO RESPECTS OTHERS AS EQUALS. YOUR GAIT IS TOO CHEERFUL AND FRIENDLY.

AN ARISTOCRAT'S CARRIAGE SHOWS ***DISDAIN*** FOR MOST PEOPLE. PUT YOUR NOSE UP IN THE AIR SLIGHTLY.

WE MUST ***IMPROVE*** YOUR MANNERISMS IF YOU INTEND TO SUCCEED ON YOUR MISSION, MY BOY. AND BY ***IMPROVE***, I MEAN, MAKE THEM ***MUCH WORSE!***

QUICKLY! TO THE ***ACTING STUDIO!***

A FEW HOURS WITH NIKOLAI PAVLOVLICH AND YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE YOUR FRIEND ANYMORE.

DO YOU KNOW, RAZ AND I HAVE FRIENDS BACK AT COLLEGE WHO ARE PUTTING TOGETHER A MOST UNUSUAL SEX-LADEN PRODUCTION. I BET THEY COULD REALLY BENEFIT FROM YOUR INSIGHT.

OH REALLY? AND WHERE IS THAT, DARLING?

OH, JUST A LITTLE PLACE.

A MIDWESTERN LIBERAL ARTS SCHOOL CALLED GNOSIS COLLEGE.

flicker

I CAN'T HONESTLY SAY I HAVE HEARD OF IT, BUT I WOULD ***LOVE*** TO KNOW MORE.

MORE WINE, DARLING?

THAT'S AMAZING WORK, MILLIE. I SEE IT DOWNLOADING NOW.

OH! HOW WAS ACTING CLASS?

I SHOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOME PEASANTS WHIPPED FOR MY AMUSEMENT, AND THEN GO TO BED.

I THINK YOU NEED TO SEE THIS.

YOU DO REALIZE I HAVE AN EARLY FLIGHT BACK TOMORROW, YES?

THE FUNNY WAY SETA LOOKED WHEN I MENTIONED "GNOSIS COLLEGE" SUDDENLY PROMPTED ME TO THINK OF A PICTURE I SAW IN DETECTIVE NAGURSKI'S DOSSIER.

MISSING

CHARLENE WYNER

MISSING SINCE: 11/12/73

Missing from: Pleasant Prairie. Gnosis College

/1952

WT: 120 lbs.
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Brown

WELL, I SUPPOSE IT'S POSSIBLE, BUT CHIARA, IT COULD BE ANY NUMBER OF OTHER GIRLS.

BUT SETA THEN TOLD ME THAT SHE USED TO BE AN ACTRESS, SO I CALLED UP MILLIE AND HAD HER RUN "CHARLENE WYNER" THROUGH THE INTERNET MOVIE DATABASE AND...

CHEERLEADER SQUAD!

A Mr. Crown Production

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, JENNY? IF MEGAMASTOI HIGH LOSES AGAIN, IT WILL JUST BE *HUMILIATING!*

AS CHEERLEADERS, IT IS OUR SOLEMN DUTY TO MAKE THE BEST POSSIBLE USE OF OUR... ***ASSETS*** FOR OUR SCHOOL.

EARLY SEVENTIES SEXPLOITATION. WHO WATCHED THESE THINGS?

WELL, YOU WON'T HAVE TO, MUCH. MILLIE SAYS THE KEY BIT IS AT 51:30.

SO, MR. STAR QUARTERBACK...

...MAYBE IT'S MY TURN TO MAKE A PASS.

TO SCORE, YOU'VE GOT TO GET IT IN!

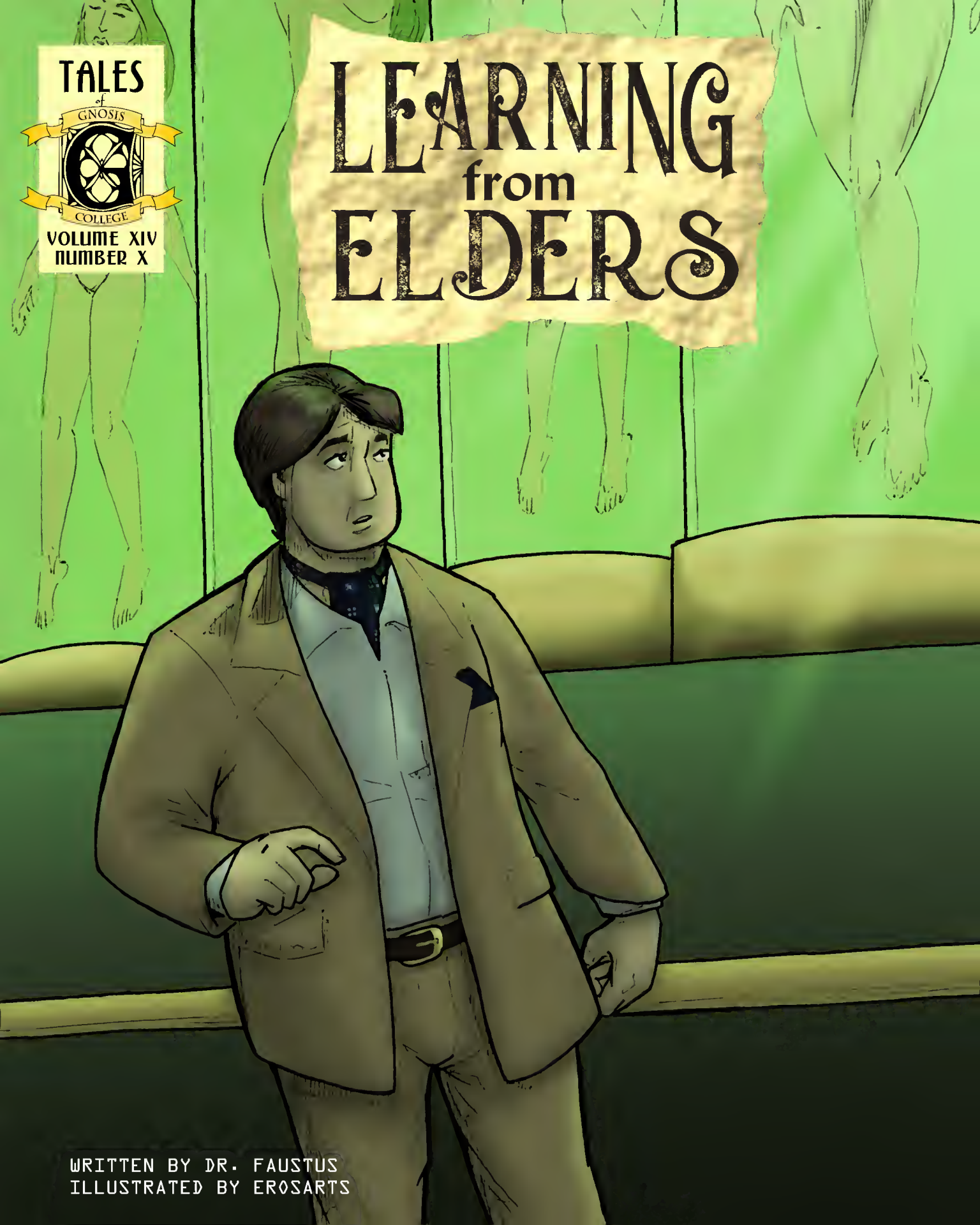
SETA CAN'T REALLY BE IN HER ***SEVENTIES***, CAN SHE?

RAZ, I THINK THERE MIGHT BE AN EVEN ***CRAZIER*** EXPLANATION.

TO BE CONTINUED...

WOMEN of GNOSIS COLLEGE

Greta Irfast


TALES
of
GNOSIS
COLLEGE
VOLUME XIV
NUMBER X
LEARNING
from
ELDERS
WRITTEN BY DR. FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY EROSARTS

MAY I SIT HERE?

OF COURSE.

I AM TOLD THAT THE OTTERS ARE UNUSUALLY FRISKY THIS SEASON.

THAT IS DISINFORMATION PUT ABOUT BY OUR ENEMIES.

STILL, WE'LL ALWAYS HAVE PEORIA.

WHAT A SHAME.

CIGARETTE, MADEMOISELLE? THEY ARE PRE-WAR...

HOW KIND.

WON'T YOU SEE ME OUT, YOUR SERENE HIGHNESS?

WE HAVE A CAR WAITING FOR YOU...

IT IS AN HONOR TO HAVE YOUR SERENE HIGHNESS HERE.

WOULD YOUR SERENE HIGHNESS PLEASE FOLLOW ME?

I DO NOT DOUBT THAT.

IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT YOUR SERENE HIGHNESS WISHES TO SEE OUR OPERATION AT WORK.

CORRECT.

MANY OF OUR CLIENTS DO, OF COURSE. THEY FIND THAT IT ENHANCES THEIR... EXPERIENCE.

THIS HIGH-SPEED ELEVATOR WILL TAKE US WHERE WE NEED TO GO.

AND WHERE IS THAT?

A CONVERTED SECRET *KRIEGSMARINE* SUBMARINE BASE.

YOUR SERENE HIGHNESS'S GREAT-GRANDFATHER'S FIRM WAS LEAD CONTRACTOR ON ITS ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION.

THAT DOES NOT BOTHER YOU?

OH, NO. HIS WAR-CRIMES TRIAL WAS AN UTTER ***TRAVESTY***.

IT IS IN HERE THAT THE MAGIC TAKES PLACE.

AND WHAT EXACTLY IS THE MAGIC?

IT IS QUITE SIMPLE, IN PRINCIPAL ANYWAY.

OUR PROFILING TEAMS IDENTIFY ELDERLY WOMEN WHO MEET CERTAIN PSYCHOLOGICAL AND GENETIC DESIDERATA AND ***RECRUIT*** THEM.

"RECRUIT" THEM?

JUST AS YOUR SERENE HIGHNESS'S GREAT-GRANDFATHER ***RECRUITED*** LABOR FOR HIS WARTIME CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

A COMBINATION OF Q-RADIATION AND DRUG THERAPIES IN A SECURE FLUIDIC ENVIRONMENT IS USED TO INDUCE HIGH-SPEED REVERSE SENESCENCE.

OUR STAFF HAS BEEN KIND ENOUGH TO ARRANGE VISUAL DEMONSTRATION.

BUT DO THEY RETAIN THEIR MEMORIES THROUGH THE PROCESS?

OH NO, YOUR SERENE HIGHNESS.

WE ARE CAREFUL TO ELIMINATE FIRST-PERSON MEMORIES.

SOMETIMES TRACES REMAIN, BUT RARELY ANYTHING SIGNIFICANT.

THEY RETAIN A FAIR AMOUNT OF WORLD-KNOWLEDGE AS WELL AS A SUBCONSCIOUS -- AND TRUE! -- SENSE THAT THEY HAVE BEEN DELIVERED FROM DEATH BY INTERVENTIONS MADE POSSIBLE BY THEIR OWNERS. THUS THEY MAKE IDEAL HANDMAIDS.

HANDMAIDS? ISN'T THAT A TERM FROM *THE HA*... I MEAN, THAT NOVEL BY SOME CANADIAN WOMAN I'M SURE I'VE NEVER READ?

AN EXPROPRIATION, TO BE SURE.

IT IS A GOOD THING TO REMIND THE LOWER ORDERS THAT NOTHING PROPERLY BELONGS TO THEM, NOT EVEN THE MEMES THEY CIRCULATE AMONG THEMSELVES. DOES YOUR SERENE HIGHNESS NOT AGREE?

WE UNDERSTAND FROM OUR INITIAL CONTACT THAT YOUR SERENE HIGHNESS HAS SOMETHING QUITE SPECIFIC IN MIND.

WE BELIEVE WE HAVE SOMETHING THAT JUST MIGHT SUIT.

SHE WILL REQUIRE SEVERAL MORE WEEKS OF PROCESSING...

...BUT AS YOU CAN SEE SHE IS ALREADY COMING ALONG NICELY.

THUNK

YOUR SERENE HIGHNESS!

IS YOUR SERENE HIGHNESS WELL?

MY DOCTOR HAD WARNED ME ABOUT HIGH-SPEED ELEVATORS. HE HAS GIVEN ME SOME MEDICATION. A GLASS OF WATER...

IDIOT! WHERE IS HIS SERENE HIGHNESS'S GLASS OF WATER?

COMING RIGHT AWAY, NUMBER TWO!

THAT IS MUCH BETTER.

IF YOUR SERENE HIGHNESS WILL COME WITH ME, I AM SURE WE CAN ARRANGE TO TAKE THE FR... I MEAN, THE SLOWER OF OUR ELEVATORS BACK UPSTAIRS.

AT THE RISK OF INDELICACY, YOUR SERENE HIGHNESS, THERE IS OF COURSE THE MINOR MATTER OF OUR FEE...

I HAVE NO OBJECTION TO YOUR FEE, OF COURSE.

BUT I DO HAVE A CONDITION...

I MUST INSIST ON INSPECTING YOUR WORK WHEN ***COMPLETED***.

OH, ABSOLUTELY, YOUR SERENE HIGHNESS.

WE SHALL MAKE ALL THE ARRANGEMENTS.

WE ARE HAVING A LITTLE RECEPTION FOR SOME OF OUR CLIENTS AND OUR HANDMAIDS JUST OUTSIDE. PERHAPS YOUR SERENE HIGHNESS WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING?

PERHAPS.

CHICKS REALLY DIG IT WHEN I PLAY FOR THEM ON MY ***SEXOPHONE!*** OH YEAH!

UNDOUBTEDLY TRUE, MR. PRESIDENT.

ALL MY CAREER I HAVE FOUGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN DIGNITY. BUT YOU MAKE ONE ***TINY*** MISTAKE AND SUDDENLY YOU SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE DEMONIZED BY LOONIES.

THE UTTER INJUSTICE MUST SURELY RANKLE, FORMER PRIME MINISTER.

ГОВОРЯТ, ЧТО НАС ВЫБРОСИЛИ НА ПОМОЙКУ ИСТОРИИ, ЧТО НАМ МЕСТО СРЕДИ МЕРТВЫХ. НЕВЕЖЕСТВЕННЫЕ ГЛУПЦЫ! ДОБРОДЕТЕЛЬНЫЕ И ПРАВЫЕ НЕ МОГУТ УМЕРЕТЬ. ЧАС НАШЕГО ВОЗВРАЩЕНИЯ УЖЕ БЛИЗОК, И ВСКОРЕ МЫ ЗАЙМЕМ СВОЕ ЗАСЛУЖЕННОЕ МЕСТО В СВЯТОЙ РОССИИ.*

НЕ СМЕЮ ВАМ ВОЗРАЗИТЬ, ВЕЛИКИЙ КНЯЗЬ.**

AS YOU CAN SEE, THE CLONING PROJECT WORKED PERFECTLY.

YOU'VE NEVER LOOKED BETTER, MR. EPSTEIN.

*THEY SAY WE ARE THROWN ON THE GARBAGE HEAP OF HISTORY, THAT WE BELONG AMONG THE DEAD. IGNORANT FOOLS! THE GOOD AND THE RIGHT CANNOT DIE. THE DAY OF OUR REDEMPTION IS FAST APPROACHING, AND WE SHALL AGAIN TAKE OUR RIGHTFUL PLACES IN HOLY RUSSIA.

**I WOULD NOT THINK TO CONTRADICT YOU, GRAND DUKE.

I'VE NEVER MET A "SERENE HIGHNESS" BEFORE...

I WONDER IF HE CAN BE MADE LESS SERENE.

MEANWHILE, BACK AT GNOSIS COLLEGE, THE EXPRESS TRAIN OF PORN BARRELS ALONG, BOUND FOR AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION...

PERHAPS YOUR MAJESTY WOULD LIKE IT IF I WERE TO GET OUT THE TRAPEZE...

IT IS OF NO CONSEQUENCE, SLAVE GIRL. THE CONSTANT ATTENTIONS OF YOUR KIND TO ME SINCE BOYHOOD HAVE RENDERED US INDIFFERENT AND THE ROYAL MEMBER DYSFUNCTIONAL.

FORGIVE THIS INTERRUPTION, YOUR MAJESTY, BUT I MUST BRING SHOCKING NEWS!

WELCOME NEWS, IF IT WILL MAKE ME LESS BORED.

... ...
WINE CELLAR ... ...
DEBAUCHERIES OF BACCHUS ... ...
HORNS OF SHAME!
... ...

HAVE THIS ONE COLLARED! I SHALL BRING HER ALONG AS I SEE TO THIS MYSELF!

MERCY!

IT IS TOO LATE FOR THAT!

SEE FOR YOURSELF, YOUR MAJESTY!

KEEP DOING THIS, AND I SHALL BECOME ***YOUR*** SLAVE!

BETRAYED! I SHALL CUT THEM APART WITH MY MIGHTY SWORD!

NO, BETTER I SHALL STRANGLE THEM WITH MY BARE HANDS, I...

YOU ARE HARD, YOUR MAJESTY.

BACK IN THE PROSAIC WORLD OF LIFE AT GNOSIS COLLEGE ITSELF...

I AM SO JETLAGGED I'M NOT SURE WHAT CENTURY I'M IN.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT "JETLAGGED" IS, BUT PERHAPS I KNOW THE FEELING.

RAZ, DID YOU FIND OUT ANYTHING?

I THINK THEY GOT HER.

I THINK THEY GOT HER AND THEY HAVE A PROCESS BY WHICH THEY TURN OLD WOMEN INTO YOUNG WOMEN. ***SUB-MISSIVE*** YOUNG WOMEN WHO DON'T REMEMBER THEIR LIVES BEFORE.

AND OF COURSE THEY OFFERED TO SELL HER TO ME.

THAT'S A LOT OF MONEY, RAZ.

MORE THAN ALL OF US PUT TOGETHER COULD RAISE.

THIS IS ***OBSCENE!...***

I WANT TO PICK UP A RIFLE AND...

THESE PEOPLE AND THEIR FRIENDS... THEY'RE ALMOST UNSPEAKABLY POWERFUL.

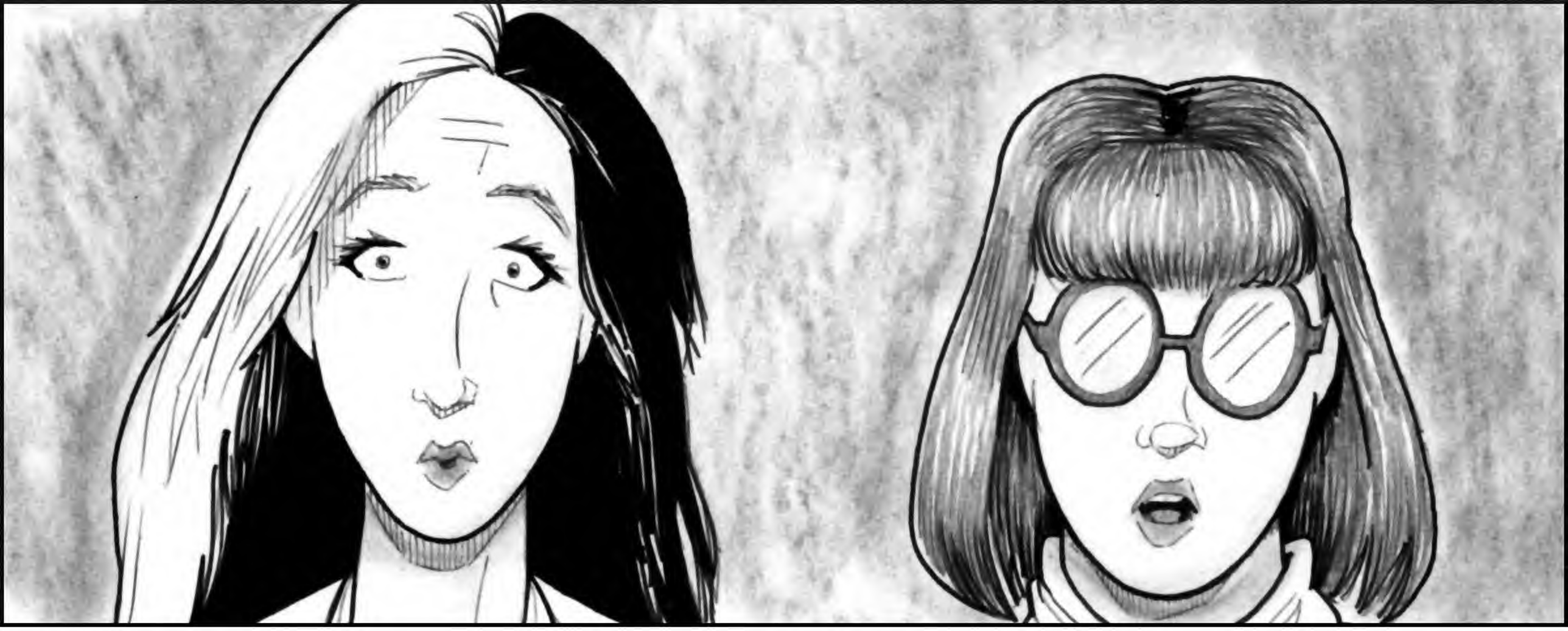
WE HAVE A FEW WEEKS TO TRY TO FIGURE OUT SOMETHING.

WE WILL, RAZ, WE WILL. BUT FOR RIGHT NOW MILLIE AND I HAVE A MEETING WITH OUR SISTERS IN CRIME OVER AT DELTA PSI.

I SHALL TRY TO BE THE MASTER OF MYSELF... *QUIDAM ITAQUE E SAPIENTIBUS VIRIS IRAM DIXERUNT BREVEM INSANIAM.**

*"THE WISE THEREFORE CALL ANGER A BRIEF MADNESS." (SENECA, *ON ANGER*)

I NEED TO GO THROUGH EROTOPYLON.



SISTER CHIARA, WE SALUTE THE COURAGE AND INTREPIDITY SUCH A COMMITMENT TO EXPLORATION SHOWS, BUT SURELY THE RISK...

EVERY ACCOUNT WE CAN COLLECT FROM A WOMAN WHO WENT THROUGH THE EROTOPYLON SUGGESTS A RATHER ***HAPPY*** FATE.

FROM THE WOMEN FROM WHOM WE ***HAVE*** ACCOUNTS. BUT WE DON'T HAVE ACCOUNTS FROM ANYTHING LIKE ALL THE WOMEN WHO HAVE BEEN THROUGH.

FOR ALL WE KNOW, THEY WERE JUST ***VAPORIZED***, OR EVEN SENT TO SOMEWHERE LIKE ***HELL***...

THAT IS A RISK I AM WILLING TO TAKE.

EVEN IF YOU'RE WILLING TO TAKE THE RISK, HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET ACCESS THE EROTOPYLON?

THERE'S THAT ***THING*** DOWN THERE GUARDING IT.

CAN'T IT BE... OVERCOME?

UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I THINK IT APPROPRIATE TO LET GO OF A CLOSELY-GUARDED SORORITY SECRET. IS THIS AGREED?

AGREED.

AGREED.

AGREED.

IN 1993 DELTA PSI ADMITTED EVA GARRIDO GANABAL, ONE OF THE MOST TALENTED WEAPONSMITHS THIS SORORITY HAS EVER SEEN.

CHIARA, HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF THE ASGARD BROTHERHOOD?

THEY WERE A WHITE SUPREMACIST MILITA IN CALIFORNIA, RIGHT? MURDERED A LOT OF LATINO AND ASIAN IMMIGRANTS, UNTIL THEY WERE ALL WIPED OUT IN SOME KIND OF BIG MASSACRE.

AND WHO DID THE MASSACRE?

I THOUGHT IT WAS ALL JUST A BIG MYSTERY.

OFFICIALLY, YES.

BUT WE HAPPEN TO KNOW THAT IT WAS EVA THAT DID IT, MOSTLY WORKING ALONE.

AFTER IT WAS ALL CLEANED UP IT TRANSPIRED THAT AT LEAST HALF THE MILITIA HAD DAY JOBS AS COPS OR FEDERAL IMMIGRATION OFFICERS, SO IT SHOULD BE CLEAR WHY THE AUTHORITIES WEREN'T EAGER TO DIG TOO DEEP.

EVA WAS PROBABLY THE MOST DANGEROUS WOMAN EVER TO SET FOOT ON THIS CAMPUS. NATURALLY, SHE WAS WELL-LOVED HERE.

AFTER ABOUT A YEAR IN COLLEGE, FOR REASONS WE'RE STILL NOT SURE OF, EVA TRIED TO TAKE OUT THE GOON.

WHAT HAPPENED EXACTLY WE DON'T KNOW.

THE NEWS REPORTED A "BIOHAZARD INCIDENT" AND THE MUSEUM WAS CLOSED FOR TWO WEEKS FOR "DECONTAMINATION."

WHEN THE MUSEUM WAS REOPENED EVA HAD DISAPPEARED, BUT THAT THING WAS STILL DOWN THERE.

EVA'S MISSING PERSONS CASE WAS TURNED OVER TO THE STATE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, BYPASSING LOCAL POLICE. UNSURPRISINGLY, THEY FOUND NOTHING.

STRANGE THAT DETECTIVE NAGURSKI DIDN'T TELL US ANY OF THIS.

PROBABLY HE WAS TAKEN IN BY THE SAME DISINFORMATION EVERYONE ELSE WAS.

PERHAPS SHE GOT THROUGH TO THE EROTOPYLON? IF SO, SOMEONE REALLY NEEDS TO...

IS THERE ANY WAY PAST THE THING? OTHER THAN SOME SORT OF SUPERSOLIDER, BLAST-YOUR-WAY-PAST ROUTE?

WE'VE DEVOTED SOME EFFORT TO THE QUESTION. THE ONLY ***CHARTED*** WAY INTO THE SPACE BEYOND ARE SOME HVAC DUCTS AND ELECTRICAL CONDUITS.

WHY NOT GO THROUGH THOSE?

IT'S NOT THE MOVIES, CHIARA. ALL OF THOSE CONDUITS NARROW DOWN TO SIX CENTI-METERS AT MOST.

ALYSSA, DO YOU HAVE A ROBOT THAT SMALL?

I DO. I CALL IT "MOUSEBOT."

I THINK I MIGHT HAVE AN IDEA.

CHIARA, YOU CAN'T DO THIS.

YOU JUST... CAN'T.

MILLIE, THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND.

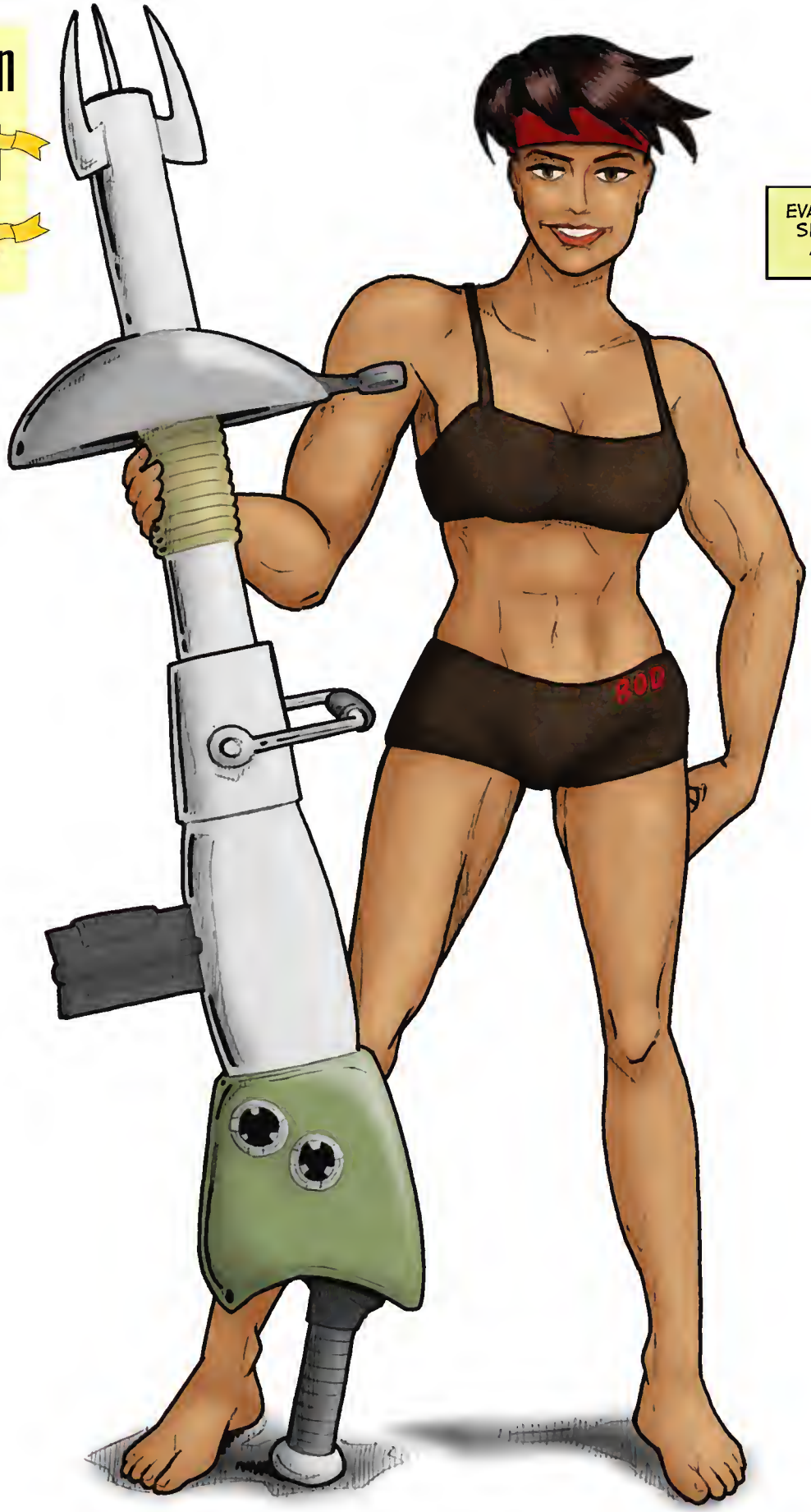
THIS ISN'T JUST ABOUT ME. AND IT ISN'T JUST ABOUT SCIENCE, OR EVEN JUST ABOUT YOUNG WOMEN WHO DISAPPEARED EIGHTY YEARS AGO. IT IS ALL ABOUT THAT, BUT THERE'S ALSO SOME-THING MORE.

I DON'T...

I'LL EXPLAIN IT AS WE WALK HOME.

TO BE CONTINUED...

WOMEN of GNOSIS COLLEGE



EVA GARRIDO GANABAL, SHOWING HER GUNS, AND ALSO A ***BFG***.

TALES of GNOSIS COLLEGE
VOLUME XIV
NUMBER XI

LEARNING from ELDERS

WRITTEN BY DR. FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY EROSARTS

AND IN VIEW OF THE INVALUABLE AND IRREPLACEABLE SERVICES PROVIDED TO US BY THIS PAIR, WE EXPRESS AS AN ACT OF OUR SOVEREIGN WILL THAT THEY SHALL BE WED, RAISED TO THE RANK OF COUNT AND COUNTESS ALMAMATER, AND GIVEN A NEW ESTABLISHMENT IN LIFE APPROPRIATE TO THEIR STATIONS.

YOU MAY RISE.

CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP
CLAP
CLAP CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP
CLAP

OH, GOOD SHOW!

YES, INDEED. I HAVEN'T ENJOYED MYSELF THIS MUCH SINCE THE LAST TIME WE BURNED A HERETIC!

WHAT DO WE DO NOW, BOSS?

WE CONVEY OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HAPPY COUPLE.

AND THEN WE LIE IN WAIT FOR ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY...

CUT! AND THAT'S A WRAP!

I REALIZE THAT MORES ARE DIFFERENT TODAY THAN WHAT I KNOW, BUT AREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT...

NOT REALLY. THESE DAYS EVERY OTHER GIRL IS DOING SOMETHING EQUALLY BOLD ON LOTSOFANS.

BY THE WAY, WEREN'T CHIARA AND STAN SUPPOSED TO COME?

THEY... UM... HAD SOMETHING SERIOUS TO DISCUSS.

YOU DO RECALL YOU OWE ME A FAVOR, RIGHT?

SURE. AND IT CAN BE ANYTHING BUT THIS.

HASN'T THIS TECHNOLOGY BEEN THE SOURCE OF ENOUGH GRIEF?

I SHALL EXPLAIN MY REASONS AS CAREFULLY AS I CAN. BUT AT THE END OF THE DAY IT COMES DOWN TO YOU OWE ME THIS.

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO PULL THE TRIGGER YOURSELF THEN I CAN FIND SOMEONE WHO WILL.

SISTERS...

COOL OLD HOUSE.

CHIARA IS WAITING UPSTAIRS WITH THE ENTIRE SETUP. SHE SEEMS VERY CALM.

I WOULDN'T BE.

WELL, HERE WE ARE.

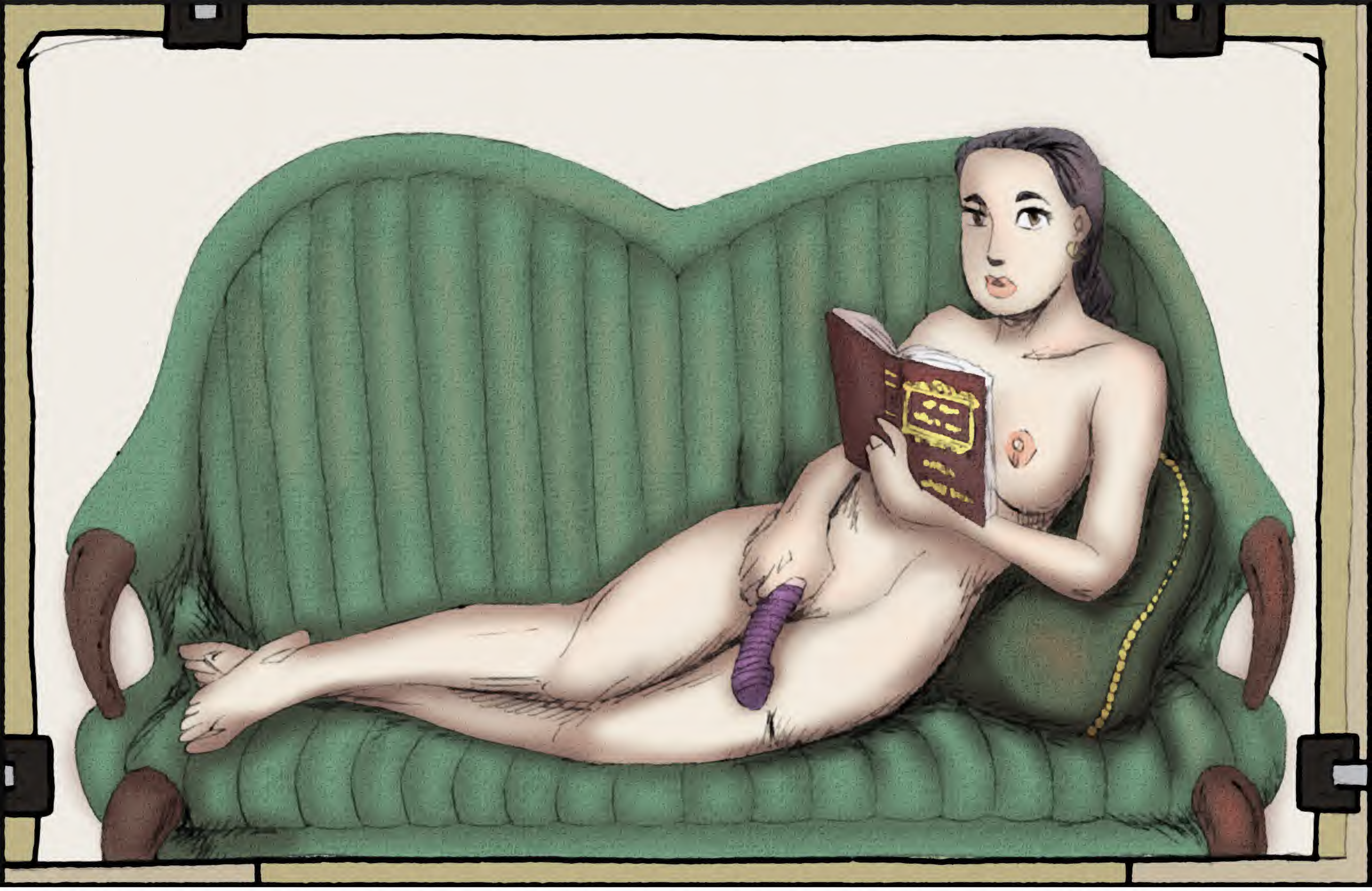
LET'S DO THIS QUICKLY, BEFORE SOMEONE CHANGES HER MIND.

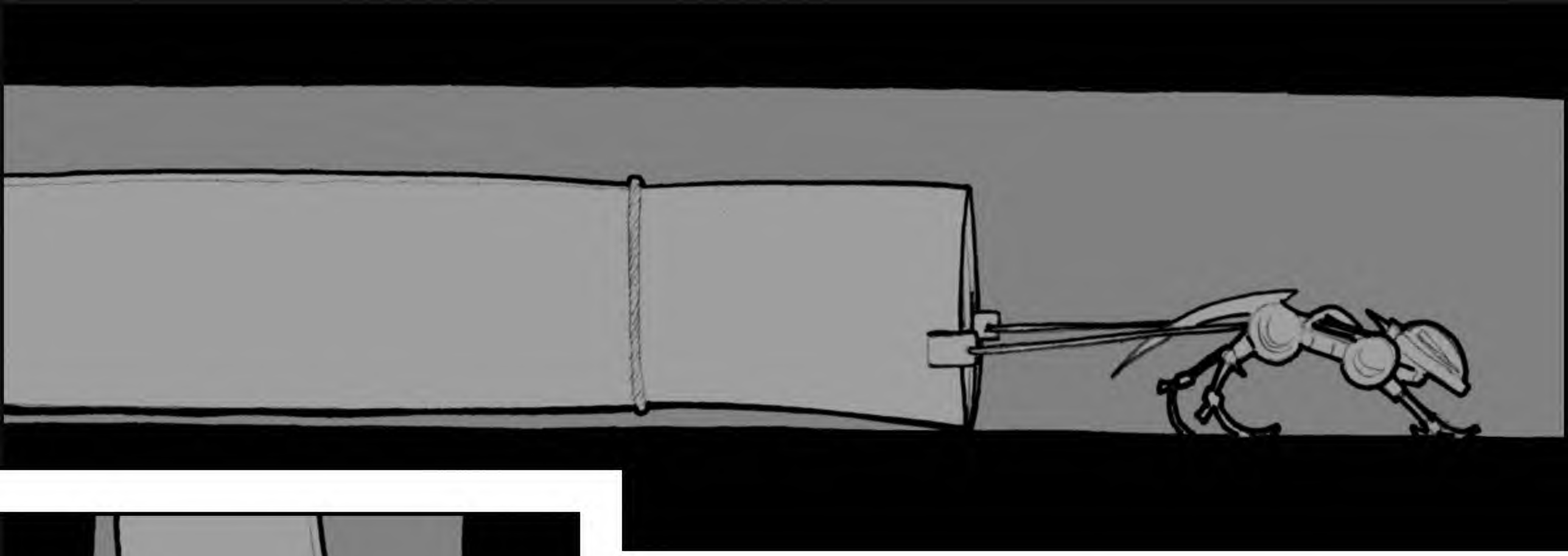
DO IT.

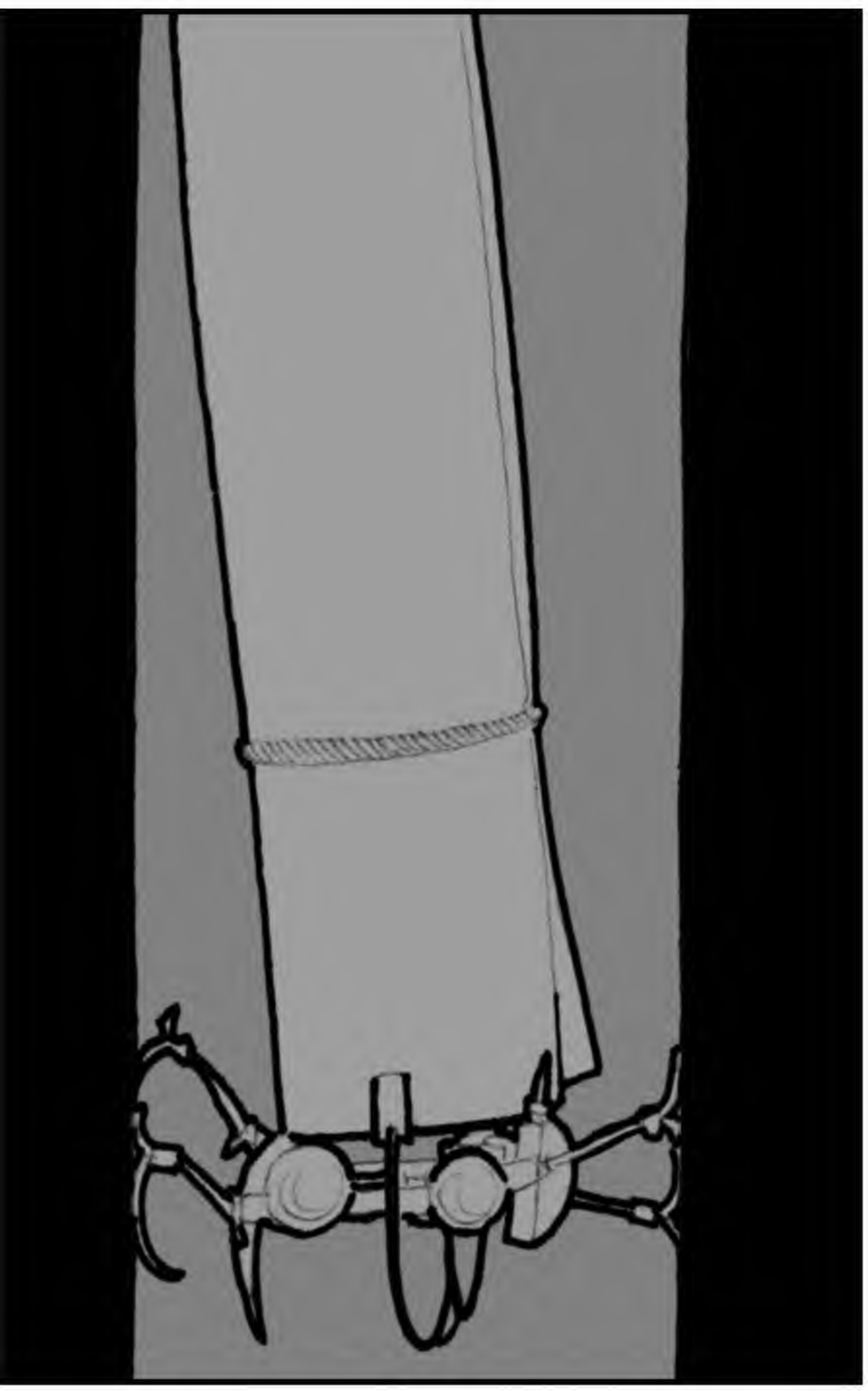
KA-

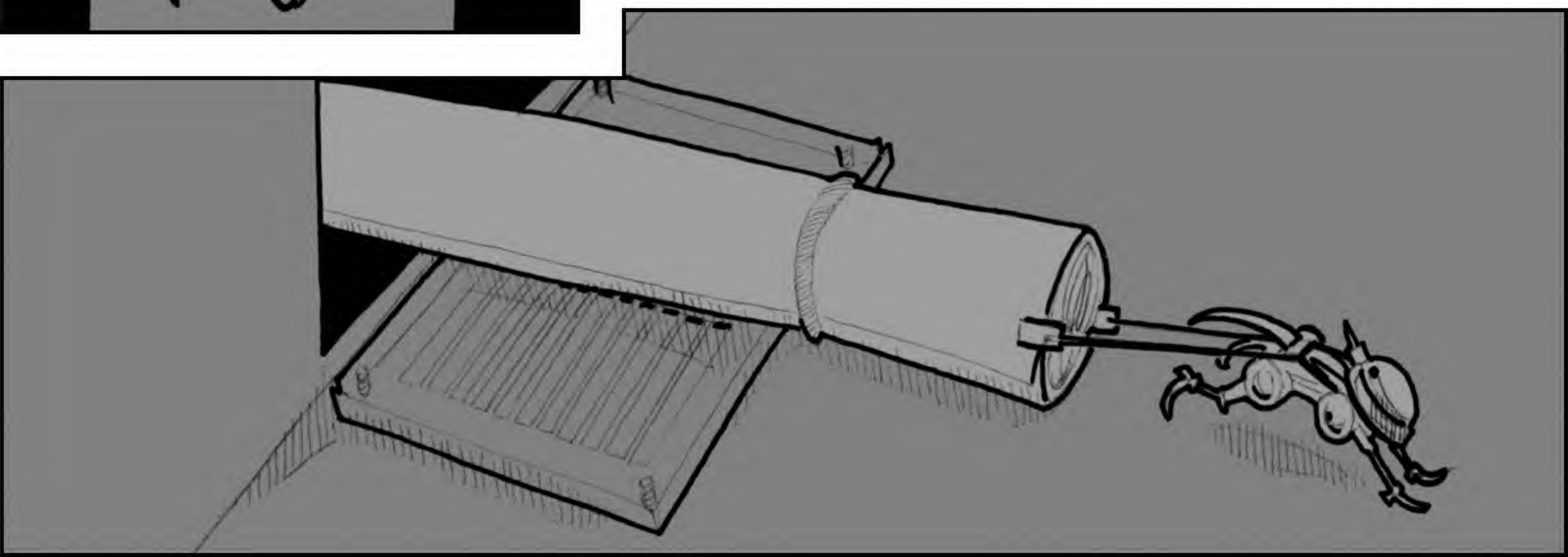
CHONK!

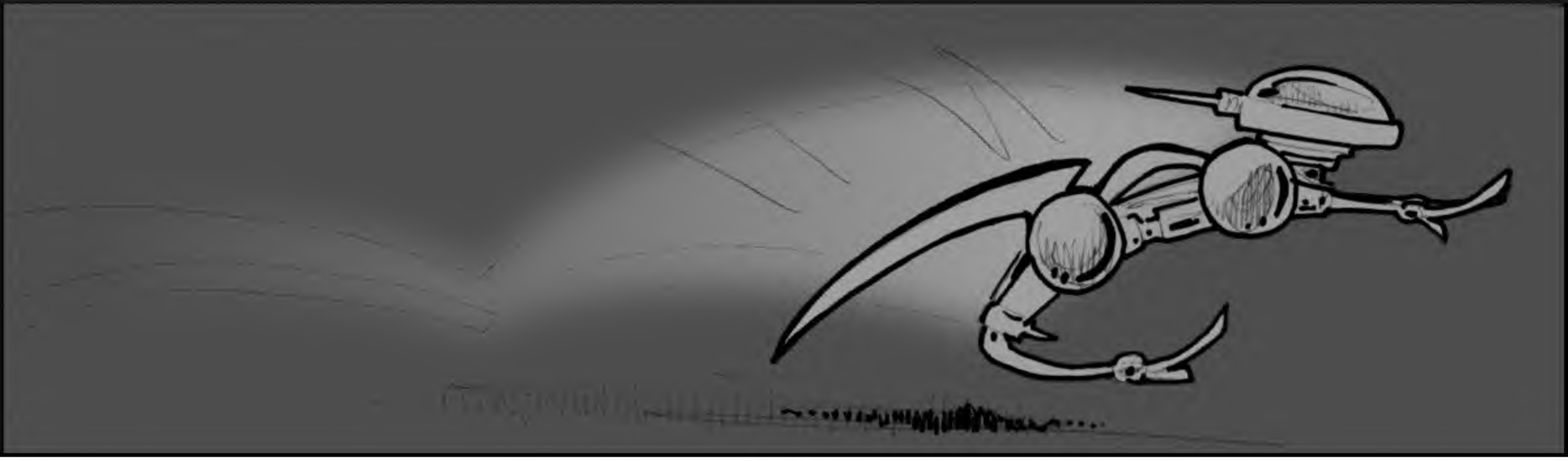
KA-ZAP!

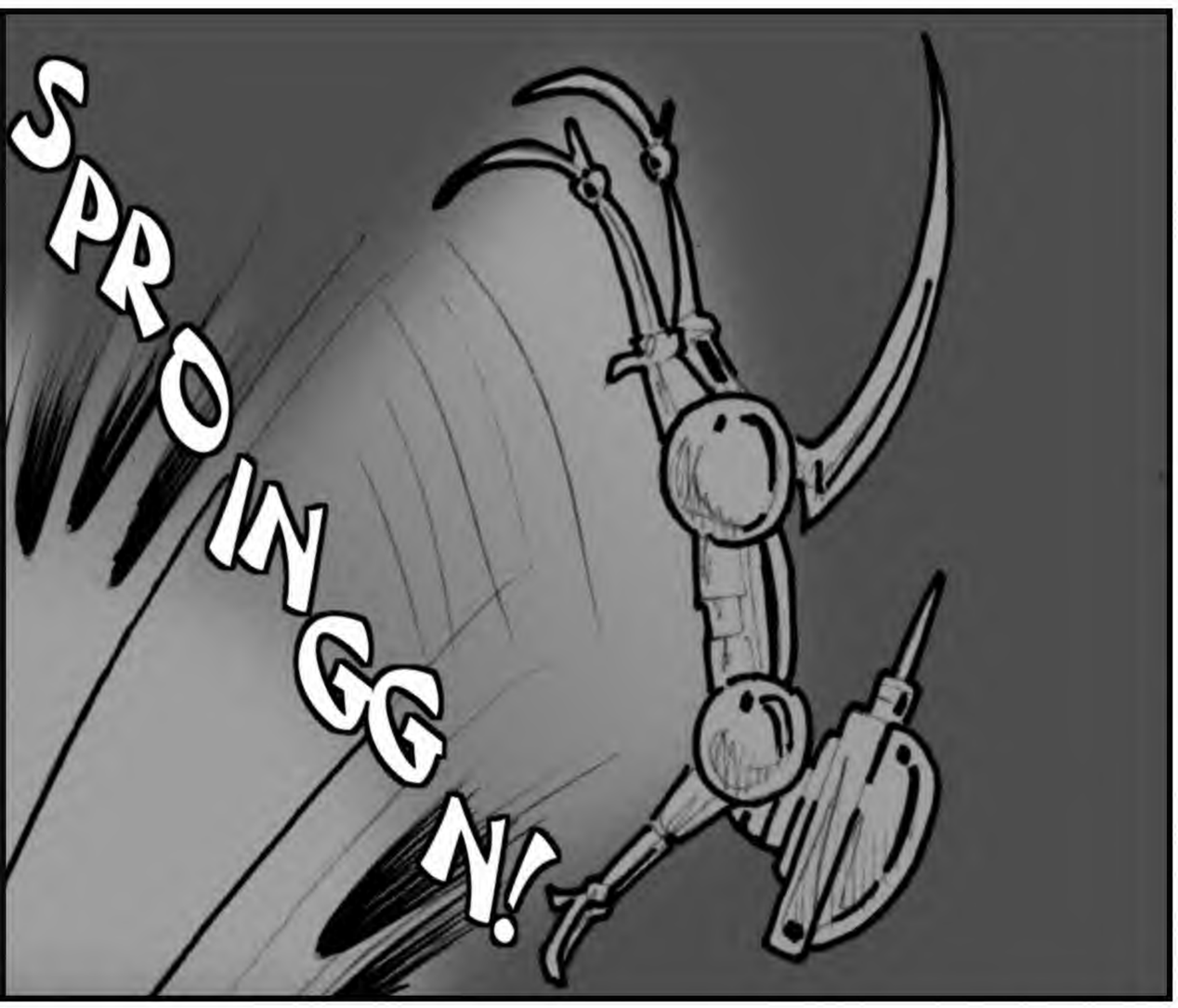


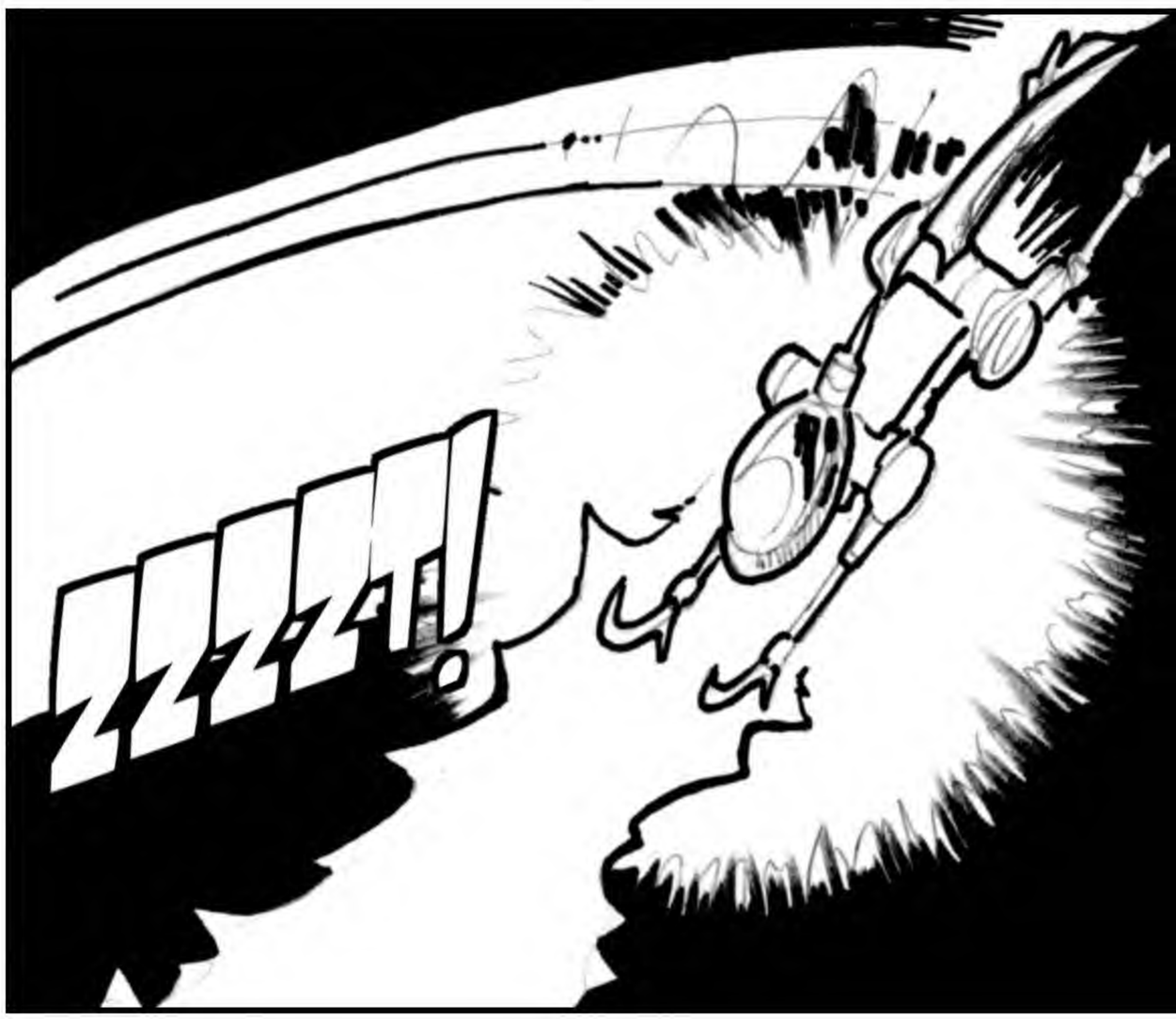









SPROINGGN!


ZZZZT!

KRACKLE ACKLE!

=COUGH!=
=WHEEZE!=

GRAOWOH!

THUD!

THUD! THUD!
THUD!

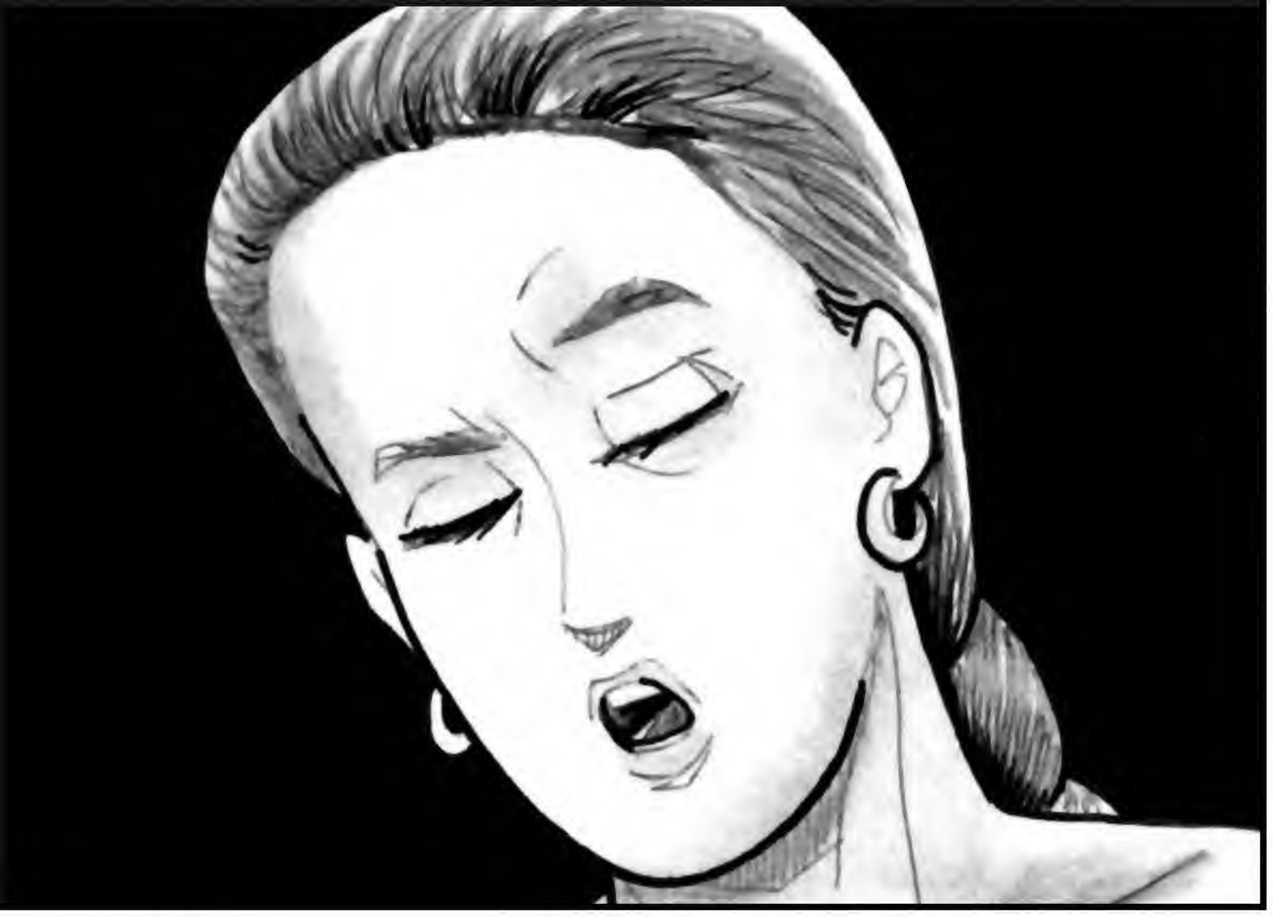
WAHOOAHHOOWHOA!

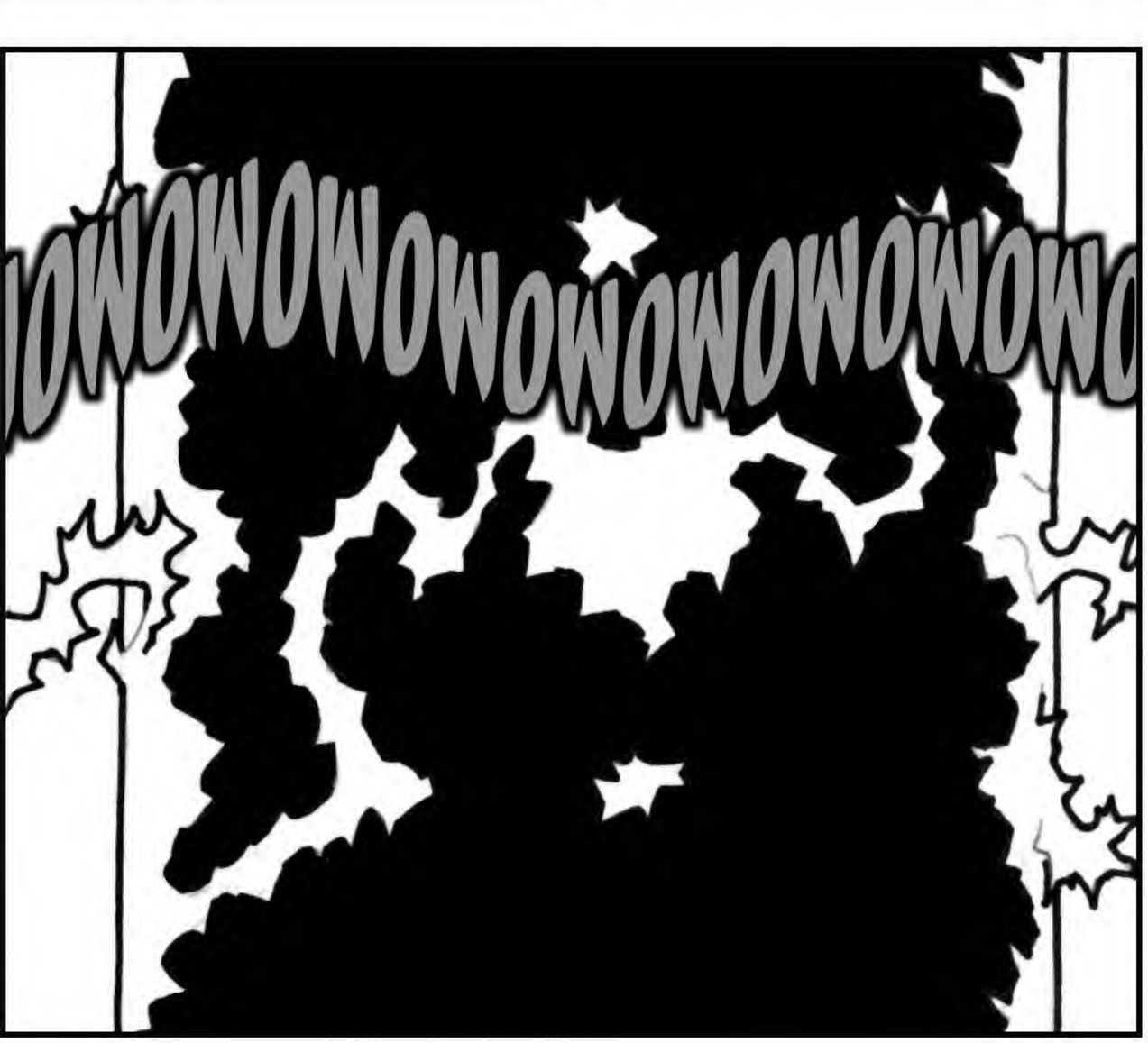
THUD! THUD!
THUD! THUD!
THUD!

ROWHAOOHOWHAA

THUD-THUD!
THUD! THUD!
THUD-THUD-THUD!
THUD!

BUZZZZZZZZ!




OWOWOWOWOWOWOWOWO

KFWASH!

WELL, THIS IS GOING TO MEAN A LOT OF PAPERWORK FOR SOMEONE.

YOU DID *WHAT?*

RAZ, WE DID WHAT WE HAD TO DO.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT YOU...

DING DONG

IS MR. RAZ CHEN HERE?

I'M RAZ CHEN.

MR. CHEN, MY NAME IS ROYSTON HAWKINS. I AM WITH OLDERSHAW AND CAMMINS, A PRIVATE BANKING CONCERN IN LONDON. MAY I COME IN?

SOME TIME AGO, A MRS. CLARITY JOY LEFT US A DEPOSIT OF A THOUSAND POUNDS STERLING AND A SEALED LETTER, WITH INSTRUCTIONS THAT IT BE DELIVERED TO A MR. RAZ CHEN AT THIS PLACE ON THIS DATE.

PLEASE TAKE CARE WITH IT, MR. CHEN, AS IT IS SOMEWHAT FRAGILE.

THIS IS *CHIARA'S* HANDWRITING. SHE HAS A STORY TO TELL...

"...I WOULD NEVER HAVE THOUGHT THAT THE LIFE OF A PIRATE QUEEN WOULD SUIT ME, BUT I SUPPOSE THE EROTOPYLON KNEW BETTER. IT IS A LIFE OF HIGH ADVENTURE I WOULD TRADE FOR NO OTHER."

"...THE POSSIBILITIES FOR EROTIC FULFILLMENT, FOR A WOMAN WHO HAS RECEIVED THE UNIVERSAL ANTIVACCINATIVE, ARE, TO SAY THE LEAST, FORMIDABLE."

"...IN MY RETIREMENT, I HAVE ARRANGED WITH A RELIABLE FIRM FOR TWO TRUSTS, ONE FOR MILLIE'S BENEFIT, AND ONE FOR ESTHER'S REDEMPTION AND RE-EDUCATION."

WE HAVE HANDLED A FEW MATTERS OF THIS KIND BEFORE, ALBEIT NONE WITH ***QUITE*** SO LONG A MATURITY.

PLEASE REST ASSURED THAT OLDERSHAW AND CAMMINS ARE COMMITTED IN THE ***HIGHEST*** DEGREE TO CLIENT CONFIDENTIALITY.

OUR LEGAL DEPARTMENT HAS DRAWN UP THE APPROPRIATE TRUST DOCUMENTS.

I BELIEVE YOU WILL FIND THE ARRANGEMENTS TO BE ***QUITE*** GENEROUS, GIVEN THAT THE INITIAL ENDOWMENT HAS BENEFITED FROM ALMOST THREE CENTURIES OF COMPOUND INTEREST.

THIS ***IS*** QUITE GENEROUS.

YOU SAY YOU REPRESENT A BANK, MR. HAWKINS. CAN YOU ARRANGE FOR AN INTERNATIONAL WIRE TRANSFER, TO BE RELEASED ON MY ORDERS?

OF COURSE.

WILL YOU BE STAYING LONG IN PLEASANT PRAIRIE, MR. HAWKINS?

UNFORTUNATELY NO, MR. CHEN. OUR ORIGINAL CLIENT LEFT US WITH A MANUSCRIPT OF SOME KIND TO DELIVER TO THE GNOSIS COLLEGE LIBRARY, AND LETTERS INTENDED FOR VARIOUS RECIPIENTS IN THE U.S. AND THE UK.

I LOOK FORWARD TO READING THE MANUSCRIPT SOMEDAY.

IN THE MEANTIME I HAVE SOME TRAVEL OF MY OWN TO ARRANGE.

I REALLY DON'T KNOW IF I DID THE RIGHT THINGS HERE.

OH, I THINK DIFFERENTLY.

I THINK THINGS WORKED OUT REALLY WELL.

AND THEY WOULDN'T HAVE WORKED OUT WELL WITHOUT YOU.

THE ONE IN WHICH YOUR SERENE HIGHNESS HAD EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IS READY, AND WE SHALL SHOW HER IN PROMPTLY.

WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

I WAS TOLD THAT YOU WOULD GIVE ME MY NAME.

I SEE.

דו רעדסט ייִדיש?*

יאָ, אָבער איך וויִיס נישט פֿאַרוואָס.**

*DU REDST EYDISH?
"DO YOU SPEAK YIDDISH?"

**YA, OBER IKH VAYS NISHT FARVOS.
"YES, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHY."

SHE WILL DO.

A MOST ***EXCELLENT*** CHOICE, YOUR SERENE HIGHNESS. I AM SURE SHE WILL PROVIDE YOUR SERENE HIGHNESS WITH YEARS OF HAPPINESS.

THERE IS OF COURSE THE MINOR MATTER OF THE...

YES, YES, YES. I SHALL ARRANGE THE APPROPRIATE WIRE FROM MY BANK.

AND JUST SO WE CAN BE SURE THE TRANSFER CLEARS, FROM WHAT BANK SHOULD WE EXPECT IT?

A PRIVATE BANK IN LONDON. OLDERSHAW AND CAMMINS.

OH...

SO WHAT NOW?

OVER MANY COMING YEARS, I WANT TO TRACK DOWN THE PEOPLE WHO TOOK ESTHER AND PUT A STOP TO THEM.

THAT SOUNDS AMBITIOUS.

OBVIOUSLY I'LL NEED A LOT MORE KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORLD I HAVE COME INTO.

I WAS THINKING ABOUT RE-ENROLLING IN GNOSIS COLLEGE AND CONTINUING MY EDUCATION.

I *LIKE* THAT PLAN.

SO, WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WISH TO DO WITH ME?

SEND YOU TO COLLEGE, ESTHER.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

THERE ARE MANY THINGS ABOUT YOURSELF THAT YOU HAVE BEEN ROBBED OF. YOUR HERITAGE. YOUR VERY SELF. THIS IS WHERE I AM GOING TO TRY TO GIVE AS MUCH OF THAT BACK TO YOU AS I CAN.

I HOPE I'LL ENJOY IT.

OH, I THINK YOU WILL. THERE'S A FASCINATING YOUNG WOMAN I KNOW WHO'S ALREADY THRILLED AT THE PROSPECT OF HAVING YOU AS A ROOMMATE...

SO, *L'CHAIM!*

HERE'S TO LIFE!

CLINK!

THE END. OR PERHAPS, THE BEGINNING...

WOMEN
of
GNOSIS
COLLEGE
Pirate Queen Chiara
(and Trake)